| | 153 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Shall we start |
| 2 | everyone? |
| 3 | Good evening. What's my name? Bob Bensko. |
| 4 | This is the second public hearing I've done in this |
| 5 | case. Good to see all your smiling faces again tonight. |
| 6 | I will collect comments, and I have no input as |
| 7 | to how this case is settled. I'm totally independent. |
| 8 | I am impartial in all aspects of the case. |
| 9 | Now, let me give you some facts about |
| 10 | this case. |
| 11 | The case as filed by Rock Island Clean Line |
| 12 | Energy is officially referred to as a Petition for |
| 13 | Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. |
| 14 | "What is the nature of this proceeding?" |
| 15 | On October 10th, 2012, Rock Island Clean Line |
| 16 | filed a petition with the Illinois Commerce Commission |
| 17 | pursuant to Sections 8-406 and 8-503 of the Public |
| 18 | Utilities Act requesting authority to operate as a |
| 19 | transmission public utility and to construct, operate, |
| 20 | and maintain an electric transmission line. The |
| 21 | Commission assigned the case Docket No. 12-0560. |
| 22 | If the Commission grants Rock Island's |
| 23 | petition, Rock Island will become a public utility in |
| 24 | Illinois and will be under direction from the |

- 1 Commission to build and operate 121-mile high-voltage
- 2 direct current electric transmission line across the
- 3 state of Illinois on a Commission-approved route
- 4 between a Mississippi River crossing in Rock Island
- 5 County ComEd's Collins substation in Grundy County.
- These are questions that you need to know.
- 7 "Describe the purpose of proposed
- 8 transmission line."
- 9 According to Rock Island's petition and
- 10 direct testimony, the direct current line will consist
- of two high-voltage wires supported by single-steel
- pole structures on steel reinforced concrete
- 13 foundations spaced around 1200 feet apart. The height
- of the support structures could vary between 100 and
- 15 175 feet, and the width of the proposed right-of-way is
- **16** 200 feet.
- "How did Rock Island select the proposed
- 18 route?"
- Rock Island intends to deliver power from
- 20 renewable energy projects located in Northwestern lowa
- and nearby areas in Nebraska, South Dakota, and
- 22 Minnesota to customers east of the Mississippi River.
- 23 Rock Island project will enter Illinois south of
- 24 Cordova, Illinois, transverse Illinois for approximately

- 1 121 miles, and interconnect with the Collins substation.
- 2 According to Rock Island's direct testimony,
- 3 Rock Island hired HDR Engineering, Powers Engineering,
- 4 and Kiewit Power Construction Company to help perform
- 5 the route analysis by avoiding sensitive areas,
- 6 following existing land use lines where present, and
- 7 keeping in mind energy specifications of the proposed
- 8 electric transmission line.
- 9 "What will the proposed project cost?"
- According to Rock Island's testimony, the
- total cost of the project, including converter stations
- to convert between alternating and direct current and
- 13 connecting lines to hook into the transmission grid
- 14 will be \$2 billion.
- "What criteria must the Commission use to
- 16 evaluate Rock Island's petition and proposed project?"
- Section 8-406(a) of the Act requires a public
- 18 utility as defined in the Act to possess a certificate
- of public convenience and necessity from the Illinois
- 20 Commerce Commission before doing business in Illinois.
- Section 8-406(b) of the Act requires a public
- utility to obtain a certificate of public convenience
- and necessity before beginning construction of any new
- 24 plant, equipment, property, or facility.

| 13 |
|--|
| Section 8-406(b) requires the Commission to |
| make three findings: That the proposed construction is |
| necessary to provide service to customers, that the |
| public utility is capable of managing and supervising |
| the proposed construction, and that the public utility |
| is capable of financing the proposed construction. |
| In addition to the above required findings, |
| the Commission also examines the proposed route and |
| construction location of a proposed project to make |
| sure that the facility and its construction does not |
| intrude wait a second and its construction |
| intrudes on the public and on landowners as little as |
| reasonably possible. |
| "Explain the Commission's proceedings and to |
| what stage in those proceedings this case has advanced." |
| After a public utility files a petition, |
| parties to the case work together to establish dates on |
| which the public utility, the Commission staff, and |
| interveners will file testimony and legal briefs. |
| The order of events are: A utility files a |
| petition; the utility files direct testimony; staff and |
| interveners file direct testimony; the utility files |
| rebuttal testimony; staff and interveners file rebuttal |
| testimony; the utility files surrebuttal testimony; |
| |

- 1 Commission holds hearings for cross-examination of all
- 2 witness; the parties file initial and reply briefs on
- 3 the issue in the proceedings; the Administrative Law
- 4 Judge issues a proposed order; the parties file briefs
- on exception to the proposed order; and the Commission
- 6 issues its final order.
- Now, there are two things that are going on
- 8 right now. Number one, I'm here tonight to collect
- 9 your ideas, voice your concerns and stuff like that.
- 10 This testimony that we're getting from you tonight or
- 11 these comments that we're getting from you tonight will
- 12 go in the public record.
- I do not ask you to hold your hand on the
- 14 bible and swear. I don't swear you in, and there's no
- 15 cross-examination of what you say. All that's
- happening in the ICC offices where there are lawyers,
- administrative law judges, there are accountants, and
- 18 CPAs, and economists, and all these people that
- 19 represent you in this issue.
- Also, interveners in this case. If you're an
- 21 intervener, you have to tell the Commission that --
- tell the ICC that you want to intervene in the case,
- 23 and then you're not -- your testimony goes in the other
- 24 record, and it is exactly like a court of law. The

- 1 Hearing Examiner makes its proposed order; the Chairman
- 2 and Commissioners vote on it. If they vote it up and
- 3 somebody doesn't like it, the next court to go to is
- 4 the Appellate Court.
- 5 So it is exactly like a court of law. This
- 6 here tonight is just a public hearing that we come --
- 7 we don't make you come to the offices; we don't make
- 8 you become an intervener. If you are an intervener,
- 9 you usually have to have a lawyer to get through all
- 10 the paperwork and stuff like that, but we decided a
- 11 long time ago that it was best to come and get the
- information straight from the people that it's going to
- 13 affect. So that's why we're here tonight.
- The stenographer is here to make a record of
- 15 all comments tonight. All of your comments will be
- 16 placed in the Commission's E-docket system and
- available to both the public and the Commission to
- 18 review, and that means to the Commissioners, to the
- interveners, to the lawyers, to the economists, to the
- 20 CPAs. Everybody can read your comments.
- If you have written comments, you can leave
- those with me tonight, and those will be also entered
- on the E-docket system. You may also file a public
- comment for the ICC's Web site at www.icc.Illinois.gov.

- On the front page of the ICC's Web site, you
- 2 will see the public comment option. If you want to
- 3 call in to make a comment, you can dial an 800 number,
- 4 1-800-524-0795. Tonight's public hearing is only one
- 5 part, like I said, of the process of the review of the
- 6 company's rate proposal that the Administrative Judge
- 7 is hearing right now.
- 8 Now, if you have -- I will -- since this is a
- 9 continuation of the last hearing that I was here to
- 10 conduct, the last public forum I was here to conduct, I
- am going off of those pages. I have those with me
- 12 right here.
- If somebody's not here, I'll go on to the
- next person, and then when I get to the end, anyone
- 15 here -- I will say, "Is anyone here that didn't sign up
- to speak that wished to speak and has not spoken, raise
- 17 your hand." I will call on you and allow you to speak
- 18 tonight. If we have time, then we'll go into the
- 19 question-and-answer period.
- The first thing I want to do is I want to
- 21 thank the superintendent and the principal for allowing
- us to use this beautiful room tonight. This is your
- 23 room. This is your tax money that you're looking at,
- and it's nice to be able to use it. I want to thank

160 1 them; I want to thank the police department for being That's if you get rowdy but I know 2 here tonight. 3 better. 4 But thank you all for coming. Now I am going to ask Jimmy Glotfelty from the company to come up and 5 address you and tell you what the company is asking for 6 7 in their words. 8 Ji mmy? 9 MR. GLOTFELTY: Good evening. Thank you 10 very much to the Commission and to every member of this 11 community for coming out tonight. We appreciate your 12 efforts to be a part of this process. 13 My name is Jimmy Glotfelty. I'm executive 14 vice president of Clean Line Energy. I appreciate the 15 opportunity to return here to Mendota to talk to you 16 about the Rock Island Clean Line project, respond to 17 some of the concerns that we heard at the last meeting, 18 and listen to others who have taken the time to come 19 out and complete this process and speak tonight. 20 I, too, want to give a special thanks to the 21 police, the Mendota High School staff, and the fire 22 marshal for help with this event and the last one. 23 really appreciate their efforts for us and what they do

24

for your community.

161 The Rock Island Clean Line will bring major 1 2 benefits to Illinois and to our nation. These benefits 3 are in terms of low-cost renewable energy that Illinois 4 and our nation require, new economic development and job opportunities, and local tax revenue that can 5 6 improve our schools and hospitals. 7 We recognize that there is a tension between 8 these benefits and the impacts of a transmission line. 9 We have worked very hard to develop the least impactful 10 Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a route. 11 transmission line with zero impacts. 12 At the previous hearing we spoke with several 13 landowners who do not fully know the proposed route for 14 the Rock Island Clean Line. We also spoke with people 15 who were under the impression that we have applied for 16 eminent domain. That is not correct. On the contrary, 17 Rock Island hopes to reach fair and reasonable 18 voluntary agreements to acquire easements with 19 l andowners. Rock Island has not applied for eminent domain from the Illinois Commerce Commission, and we 20 21 will only do so if all reasonable and voluntary efforts 22 at easement acquisition are exhausted. 23 This evening, as many of you all saw, we 24 brought large maps that are across the hallway in the

- 1 cafeteria. These maps show a preferred route of our
- 2 project, the only route that has formally been filed
- **3** with the Illinois Commerce Commission.
- 4 Many areas that were originally studied for
- 5 the Rock Island Clean Line are no longer under
- 6 consideration. The preferred route is the only one for
- 7 which we are advocating in this proceeding at the
- 8 Illinois Commerce Commission. If you have not been
- **9** across the hallway to the cafeteria and looked at the
- 10 maps, I encourage you to do so.
- 11 Our efforts at Clean Line Energy are
- dedicated to connecting the best renewable energy
- resources in the country to communities just like this
- one who have a growing demand for low-cost clean
- 15 energy. The challenge is where the wind is the
- 16 strongest, the existing transmission grid is the
- weakest. Our nation's best onshore wind resources are
- in the Great Plaines states. Illinois has great wind
- resources, but those resources are not sufficient to
- 20 meet the growing needs of both Illinois and our nation.
- 21 Clean Line has embraced this challenge, and that is
- specifically why we are developing the Rock Island
- 23 Clean Line.
- The Rock Island Clean Line project is a

- 1 500-mile overhead direct current transmission line that
- 2 will enable about 3500 megawatts of new wind energy to
- 3 be delivered through the transmission grid in Illinois
- 4 and in other states. 3500 megawatts is enough energy
- 5 to power about 1.4 million homes per year, and it's
- 6 about the same amount of energy that three Hoover Dams
- 7 produce on an annual basis. So it's a large amount of
- 8 power. We'd like to say that the Rock Island Clean
- **9** Line is a new farmer's market for wind power.
- Some people have asked if this project is
- 11 actually needed. The answer is yes. In the midwestern
- and eastern energy markets -- and that includes
- 13 Illinois -- there is growing demand for renewable
- 14 energy. States have passed laws that require dramatic
- increase in renewable energy by 2025. The renewable
- 16 energy that exists today will only achieve about
- 17 20 percent of that goal. The Rock Island Clean Line
- will help increase that to about 30 percent, and there
- 19 is still a long way to go. In the future we will need
- 20 Illinois wind and wind to go across the Rock Island
- 21 Clean Line and a lot more to satisfy these goals.
- Many speakers at the last hearing supported --
- have shown their support for the Rock Island project
- 24 because of the major economic benefits that will result

- 1 from the project both in Illinois and surrounding
- 2 states. I want to thank them for their support. Many
- 3 of them are wearing orange shirts here tonight. I
- 4 thank them for coming out again and completing the
- **5** process.
- 6 The Rock Island Clean Line is a \$2 billion
- 7 investment. Over 600 million of that investment is
- 8 right here in Illinois. The project will support
- 9 manufacturing jobs and create thousands of construction
- jobs in the region, and that's just for transmission
- 11 lines. The wind farms, as well, that will be built to
- connect to this project will also support many
- manufacturing jobs in the region.
- 14 Clean Line has made a commitment early in
- this process to work with qualified local and regional
- businesses to construct and maintain this transmission
- 17 line. We want the benefits to flow to local
- 18 communities. If you have not signed a card out in the
- 19 back and would like to be a qualified local vendor for
- 20 our project, please do so. There are cards at our
- 21 table out in the hallway.
- The Rock Island Clean Line will benefit
- 23 consumers by increasing competition in your electricity
- 24 market. Increasing the amount of wholesale electricity

- 1 will decrease wholesale electricity prices in this
- 2 state about \$320 million in the first year alone. This
- 3 is another reason why the Clean Line -- the Rock Island
- 4 Clean Line project is needed.
- 5 The counties that compose the Rock Island
- 6 Clean Line can also benefit directly from this line.
- 7 Rock Island has offered to pay Illinois counties \$7,000
- 8 per mile per year for 20 years. This would mean that
- 9 over a 20-year period the project would provide over
- 10 \$16 million in revenue payments to counties across the
- 11 project area in Illinois.
- Our converter station in Illinois will be a
- roughly quarter-billion-dollar investment located in
- 14 Grundy County. It will also generate millions of
- dollars of tax revenue to benefit schools, emergency
- 16 services, and local governments. We are grateful for
- 17 the support of comments of school districts at the last
- hearing and hope there are more tonight.
- I have just a couple more comments. I'd like
- to talk for a second about the route of the Rock Island
- 21 Clean Line and how we plan on compensating landowners.
- 22 Clean Line has spent more than three years
- 23 meeting with landowners, government agencies,
- 24 conservation organizations, elected officials,

- 1 community leaders, farmers. It's been our point to
- 2 listen to them and to understand their issues with our
- **3** proposed routes.
- 4 There are many important concerns to address
- 5 in routing, and the routing team often must find
- 6 balance between these various routing criteria. We
- 7 attempt to follow field lines and property lines,
- 8 existing roads and transmission lines where possible.
- 9 We minimize diagonal routes across property. In some
- 10 cases there are challenges associated with these
- options, and like I said in direct conflict.
- One example of our most important criteria
- was to maximize distances from homes. So in our
- 14 preferred route that we've filed with the Commission,
- there are only 11 homes within 500 feet of our center
- 16 line, and of the 117 miles in Illinois, only 13 miles
- **17** are diagonal.
- We hope that you all fully understand the
- 19 compensation model that we have laid out. We strive to
- 20 compensate landowners fairly and look forward to
- 21 conducting more voluntary easement discussions with
- 22 affected landowners. The total amount of compensation
- for landowners is more than 100 percent of fair
- 24 market value.

1 Like I said at the first meeting, we will 2 compensate landowners in three ways: The first for the 3 area of the land we are leasing for an easement; the 4 second is a structure payment, and the third is a 5 payment for damages that we create while constructing 6 the line or for maintaining the line. 7 The easement payment is a one-time payment. 8 It's worth 90 percent of the fair market value of the 9 land within the easement area. This will be determined 10 by an independent appraiser, not us. 11 The easement area will typically range from 12 145 feet to 200 feet in width. We are not seeking to 13 purchase the land. The easement is limited to allowing 14 us to build, operate, and own, and maintain this 15 transmission line only. Farmers will be able to 16 continue farming within the easement. In total, less 17 than 1 percent of the easement area of the entire 18 project will be taken out of crop production due to the 19 footprint of the transmission structures. 20 We compensate landowners for structures on 21 their properties. We listened to requests from 22 landowners that they would like an annual payment-type 23 structure, so we've given them a choice. One upfront or an annual payment for as long as the structures are 24

- 1 on their property. Depending upon the land and
- 2 engineering conditions, we expect there will be four to
- 3 six structures per mile.
- **4** We've committed to using single-foundation
- 5 structures for the majority of the line. We call them
- 6 monopoles. Traditional lattice structures will be used
- 7 but only in limited circumstances such as river
- 8 crossings or structures. This use of monopole
- 9 structures is included in an agriculture impact
- 10 mitigation agreement that we have signed with the
- 11 Illinois Department of Agriculture. This agriculture
- impact mitigation agreement is explicitly incorporated
- into easement agreements. So you all will be able to
- 14 read it and fully understand it as the agreements are
- **15** presented to you.
- 1'd like to give you a quick example of
- 17 compensation very quickly. In the case of a landowner
- with a 145-foot-wide easement a half mile across their
- 19 property and a hypothetical offer of \$8,500 per acre --
- so it's about a half mile. So there would be
- 21 two structures on there. So the landowner would
- receive a payment of about \$75,000 for the easement
- payment, plus \$6,000 for each of the monopole
- structures for a total payment of \$87,000.

- The structure payment could be taken on an annual basis, which would reduce that upfront payment, but it would be paid to the landowner for the life of the structure. Like I said, the landowner would be able to continue to farm underneath the line right up to the structures just as you do with other transmission lines in the area.
- At the last public hearing forum in Mendota, concerns were raised by members of the community that
- 10 I'd like to take a second to address. There are just
- 11 two issues. One is --
- PARTICIPANT: Your time is up.
- 13 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: I'II
- 14 determine that.
- MR. GLOTFELTY: -- whether or not a
- 16 Rock Island Clean Line would be charging all Illinois
- 17 rate payers to construct this line. I'd like to set
- 18 the record straight on this issue. The Rock Island
- 19 Clean Line is not seeking broad cost recovery for cost
- 20 allocation. We are not asking all Illinois rate payers
- 21 broadly to pay for the construction of this line.
- In fact, there is no current method for us to
- even ask for that. We have committed that if such
- 24 mechanism is created, we would go back to the Illinois

- 1 Commerce Commission and seek a new proceeding for this
- 2 project.
- 3 One final issue is a letter by many eastern
- 4 governors that has been misconstrued in documents such
- 5 as this. It's been characterized that the eastern
- 6 governors do not support this project. It simply is
- 7 not accurate.
- 8 In 2009, 10 eastern governors did write a
- 9 letter to congress supporting renewable energy
- 10 development. The governors expressed their support for
- renewable energy but opposed subsidies. Our project
- does not want or need subsidies. The governors' letter
- was written and sent prior to the development of our
- 14 project. The governors' letter very specifically says,
- 15 "We support the development of wind resource for the
- 16 United States whereever they exist." We have copies of
- that letter here tonight if you all would like to see
- 18 it at our table.
- As mentioned earlier, we do have maps.
- 20 Please take the time to come look at the maps and see
- 21 how they impact your property. I encourage you to take
- time to ask questions of those in the white Rock Island
- 23 Clean Line shirts to clear up misconceptions, to clear
- 24 up things that are on this paper that are simply

| | 171 |
|----|---|
| 1 | i naccurate. |
| 2 | I've taken a lot of time. Thank you for your |
| 3 | time coming out tonight. Thank you to the Commission |
| 4 | for this opportunity to speak and to present the |
| 5 | project to the community again. |
| 6 | Thank you. |
| 7 | (Appl ause.) |
| 8 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Is Kari Warren |
| 9 | here? Kari Warren. Okay. You'll be second. |
| 10 | Right now your state senator, Sue Rezin, |
| 11 | could not be here tonight, but she sent one of her |
| 12 | people to speak tonight, and I want to call up |
| 13 | Max Halm, and he wants to say a few words for Sue. |
| 14 | Max? |
| 15 | MR. HALM: Well, I am Max Halm, and I'm |
| 16 | here from state Senator Sue Rezin's office. She's very |
| 17 | apologetic she could not be here. She sent me with a |
| 18 | letter, but before I begin, I'd like to thank the |
| 19 | Commission for allowing me some brief time to speak. |
| 20 | "I send my thanks to the Illinois Commerce |
| 21 | Commission for scheduling another public hearing for |
| 22 | landowners regarding the Rock Island Clean Line |
| 23 | application for a certificate of public convenience and |
| 24 | necessity per my request from earlier this month. |

"Seeing that this proposed project will both 1 2 jeopardize and interfere with crop production in and around the 38th Senate District, I have stood firmly 3 4 against this project since October of 2012, and I will 5 continue to stand firmly against it. 6 "Not only has the Rock Island Clean Line 7 taken a path that would be harmful to the Illinois 8 agriculture industry, but it also stands to injure 9 property rights through the power of eminent domain if 10 it is unable to reach voluntary agreements with the 11 Landowners. 12 "Once again, I strongly urge the Illinois 13 Commerce Commission to reject the Rock Island Clean 14 Line project certificate of public convenience. 15 "Thank you. Sue Rezin, U.S. State Senator, 16 38th District." (Appl ause.) 17 18 If anybody would like to MR. HALM: discuss this further with the senator's office, please 19 visit senatorrezin.com, and you can find her contact 20 information, her e-mail address, and her office phone 21 22 number, and her office will be happy to further discuss 23 this issue. Thank you very much. 24 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thanks, Max.

| | 173 |
|----|--|
| 1 | (Appl ause.) |
| 2 | MS. WARREN: Good evening. My name is |
| 3 | Kari Warren. I'm the human resources manager for |
| 4 | Southwire Company's factory in Flora, Illinois. I'm |
| 5 | here tonight to speak on behalf of Jeff Herrin, |
| 6 | executive vice president of operations for Southwire |
| 7 | Company. |
| 8 | "I've worked for Southwire for 15 years, all |
| 9 | of which is at our factory in Flora, Illinois. This |
| 10 | facility has been in operation since 1974 and has been |
| 11 | a long-term employer and economic contributor in our |
| 12 | county. In our Flora factory we use high-quality large |
| 13 | overhead conductors that are a backbone of the |
| 14 | electrical grid. |
| 15 | "Southwire Company supports the Rock Island |
| 16 | Clean Line, a proposed 500-mile overhead grid |
| 17 | transmission line that would deliver wind energy to |
| 18 | Illinois and beyond and create wind industry-related |
| 19 | jobs in Illinois and across the Midwest. |
| 20 | "We understand that Clean Line Energy |
| 21 | proposes to invest over \$500 million in Illinois as a |
| 22 | direct result of the construction of the Rock Island |
| 23 | Clean Line HVDC project. Furthermore, we understand |
| 24 | that Clean Line has announced its intent to maximize |

| | 174 |
|----|---|
| 1 | the use of local contractors and suppliers ranging from |
| 2 | concrete and gravel providers to hoteliers. |
| 3 | "We do know that Clean Line Energy has signed |
| 4 | a memorandum of understanding with Southwire Company |
| 5 | expressing its intent to acquire transmission wire for |
| 6 | the project from Southwire Company. We believe that |
| 7 | projects like this which support the local economy |
| 8 | should be strongly supported. |
| 9 | "According to projections this project will |
| 10 | deliver enough additional electricity to meet the |
| 11 | annual electric needs of 1.4 million homes. It would |
| 12 | also provide many people options for electricity |
| 13 | suppliers and enhanced competitiveness in energy |
| 14 | markets in the state. |
| 15 | "Southwire Company is a significant consumer |
| 16 | of electric energy in the Flora, Illinois, plant, and |
| 17 | we view competitiveness in energy markets in the state |
| 18 | as beneficial to Illinois residents, as well as to our |
| 19 | company. |
| 20 | "Southwire Company respectfully encourages |
| 21 | the ICC to approve the Rock Island Clean Line |
| 22 | application." |
| 23 | Thank you. |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |

```
175
                          (Appl ause.)
 1
                                                          I'm
 2
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO:
                                             All right.
     going to call on two people. The first person I call
 3
 4
     on step up to the podium. The second one, you're up
 5
     next after that.
               Nick M-a-s-n-i-s-o. Not here -- oh,
 6
 7
     he's here.
                 Spell it.
 8
                    PARTI CI PANT:
                                  M-a-q-r-i-s-s-o.
 9
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: No, that's not
10
     it. M-a-s-n-i-s-o.
11
                           (No response.)
12
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Ed Simpson.
13
     Ed Simpson and the guy behind him is Jay Edward
14
     Doughty.
               Is Doughty here? Okay. You're next.
15
               Thank you, Ed.
16
                    MR. SIMPSON: Ed Simpson, Port Byron,
17
     Illinois.
18
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Could you state
19
     your name and spell it for the court reporter?
20
                    MR. SIMPSON: E-d, S-i-m-p-s-o-n.
21
               I was going to talk about the eastern
     governors -- I happen to have the paper in front of
22
23
     me -- the 10 eastern governors. I'll read it as they
24
     wrote it to congress, second and third paragraphs.
```

| | 1/6 |
|----|---|
| 1 | "We write to encourage you to support strong |
| 2 | new Federal policies to promote wind resources. In |
| 3 | addition to recognizing the potential for wind |
| 4 | resources in the Midwest, we believe that wind's |
| 5 | resources of the eastern seaboard states, both onshore |
| 6 | and offshore wind, represent one of our nation's most |
| 7 | promising yet underdeveloped sources of renewable |
| 8 | energy. |
| 9 | "At the same time we must express our concern |
| 10 | about the significant risks posed by recent proposals |
| 11 | regarding transmission that we believe would jeopardize |
| 12 | our states' efforts to develop wind resources and |
| 13 | inject Federal jurisdiction into an area traditionally |
| 14 | handled by states and regions. |
| 15 | "Significant onshore and offshore wind |
| 16 | projects have been proposed and planned for almost all |
| 17 | of the northeast and mid-Atlantic states. Several of |
| 18 | our states already have significant land-based wind |
| 19 | projects installed or well underway and have |
| 20 | established aggressive wind development goals. |
| 21 | "Moreover, the waters adjacent to the East |
| 22 | Coast hold potential for developing some of the most |
| 23 | robust wind energy resources in the world. Enough wind |
| 24 | potential to meet total U.S. electricity demand, as |

- 1 Interior Secretary Ken Salvador has recently pointed
- 2 out. Congress should put its full support behind the
- 3 development of these resources."
- 4 Wind power is intermittent in generation, may
- 5 fail at any time, in night, winter, summer, and passing
- 6 weather fronts cause swathes of generators to fizzle
- 7 all at once for weeks on end. Grid managers dread that
- 8 kind of catastrophic unreliability, but it is a daily
- **9** reality for wind-generated power.
- To avoid blackouts and overloads, the grid
- 11 has too much generation with consumption on a
- moment-to-moment basis, not on a yearly basis.
- 13 Windmills generate power when the wind blows, often
- 14 going dead when electricity is needed and overproducing
- when it is blowing. The stated output of wind
- 16 generation is only available if the wind is blowing.
- Germany and Spain Leave us some very
- 18 interesting information. They have invested heavily in
- wind and solar and are finding them to be unreliable
- and way too expensive. They're way ahead of us on this
- 21 practice. Now Germany and Spain are going to more
- reliable sources for their power needs.
- Thank you.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

| | 178 |
|----|---|
| 1 | (Appl ause.) |
| 2 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Kent Olson. Is |
| 3 | he here? Kent Olson. |
| 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Then maybe |
| 6 | Greg Hitchins, is there a Greg Hitchins here? Okay, |
| 7 | you're next. |
| 8 | Go ahead. |
| 9 | MR. DOUGHTY: J. Edward Doughty. That's |
| 10 | E-d-w-a-r-d, D-o-u-g-h-t-y. |
| 11 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 12 | MR. DOUGHTY: Thank you to the Illinois |
| 13 | Commerce Commission for holding another public forum. |
| 14 | I agree and reinforce the reasons already |
| 15 | presented by many of the previous speakers on why |
| 16 | Rock Island Clean Line should be denied public utility |
| 17 | status. I add a few more disturbing facts. |
| 18 | According to the electrical engineers that I |
| 19 | spoke with at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argon |
| 20 | National Laboratories, there is significant energy loss |
| 21 | that Rock Island Clean Line does not account for in the |
| 22 | conversion to and from direct current. |
| 23 | There would be a 5 to 10 percent loss at the |
| 24 | converter station in Iowa, then at least a 10 percent |

- 1 loss of electricity over the 500-mile high-voltage
- 2 DC line, and then another 5 to 10 percent loss when
- 3 inverting the DC electricity back to AC.
- 4 Add those together and you have about as much
- 5 wind energy as experts say would be likely to be
- 6 carried on this line maximum. The 20 to 30 percent
- 7 gain in clean energy would be lost by the time it
- 8 reaches Illinois, and none of that energy is left at
- 9 all when transmitted another 1,000 miles to the East
- 10 Coast, which is Rock Island Clean Line's target
- 11 customer.
- Rock Island Clean Line likes to claim that
- they can't bury the lines because the lines would get
- 14 too hot. Well, that heat comes from the lost
- 15 electricity.
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 17 stated in their determination that Rock Island Clean
- 18 Line wanted renewal energy preference because it would
- make the project more palatable to the stakeholders was
- 20 not an adequate reason to restrict the lines to carry
- wind-generated electricity.
- In addition, Rock Island Clean Line states in
- their ICC application that they would hook into high-
- 24 voltage lines in lowa which carry many kinds of

| | 180 |
|----|---|
| 1 | generated power, including coal. |
| 2 | I ask the ICC to carefully look at how this |
| 3 | massive amount of imported power equivalent a large |
| 4 | generation plant would impact instate permanent jobs at |
| 5 | local generation plants and in our local renewable |
| 6 | energy development. And what will help to our |
| 7 | electricity prices when we compete with this power |
| 8 | being sent to a higher cost East Coast market? |
| 9 | Rock Island Clean Line has publicly stated |
| 10 | this project is not financially feasible unless our |
| 11 | electric rates go up about 50 percent. Yet their |
| 12 | business plan was conceived before the natural gas boom |
| 13 | and the strides in energy efficiency and solar energy. |
| 14 | I urge the ICC to deny granting Rock Island |
| 15 | Clean Line public utility status, and I urge the ICC to |
| 16 | call a moratorium on all new proposed transmission |
| 17 | lines in Illinois until we can evaluate all the |
| 18 | projects collectively to assess the actual need, |
| 19 | economic feasibility, environmental impacts, and |
| 20 | especially the long-term costs to Illinois workers, |
| 21 | consumers, taxpayers, and Landowners. |
| 22 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 23 | (Appl ause.) |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Is Jerry Enger |

```
181
     here? Jerry Enger, E-n-g-e-r.
 1
 2
                           (No response.)
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jerry Enger,
 3
 4
     E-n-q-e-r?
                           (No response.)
 5
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Paul Marshall?
 6
 7
     You're next, Paul.
 8
               Go ahead.
 9
                    MR. HITCHINS: Greg Hitchins,
10
     H-i-t-c-h-i-n-s.
11
               I oppose the RICL project. The need for the
12
     project is yet to be proven. In light of this
13
     landowners should not be forced to give ownership of
14
     land for a project where the people of Illinois receive
     little benefit.
15
16
                           (Appl ause.)
17
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO:
                                              Thank you.
18
               Is Kent Butterfield here? Kent Butterfield.
19
                           (No response.)
20
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO:
                                              Nope.
                                                     Hold on.
21
     David Butterfield?
22
                           (No response.)
23
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: He's probably
24
     out buttering his field.
```

182 1 Matt Steffen? Okay. Matt, sit in the 2 hot seat. 3 Go ahead. 4 MR. MARSHALL: My name is Paul Marshall, 5 M-a-r-s-h-a-l-l. 6 It's difficult to understand how the ICC could consider granting public utility status to a 7 8 company who owns no utility assets. According to 9 current records Rock Island Clean Line does not own any 10 generating stations, no transmission lines, or any 11 transformers. They do own some land in Grundy County, 12 Illinois, and some electricity queues in a grid but 13 that's all. Although they have no full-time employees, 14 they're asking for permission to build a massive 15 500-mile-long line when they have no record of having 16 built anything in the past. 17 It's difficult to understand how the ICC 18 could grant public utility status to a company that has nothing public about it. They won't be selling 19 electricity to the public, they don't benefit the 20 public, and they certainly aren't publicly owned. 21 22 It's difficult to understand how the ICC 23 could even remotely consider allowing RICL to use the 24 power of eminent domain either now or in the future to

- 1 construct this massive power line when they have no
- 2 generating facilities at one end and no customers at
- **3** the other end.
- **4** We have existing electric utilities in
- 5 Illinois with experience and proven track records in
- 6 transmission line construction, and I would urge that
- 7 if new transmission lines are needed in Illinois to
- 8 serve Illinois residents, then the ICC should be
- **9** working with Commonwealth Edison to get them built.
- 10 They have experience with construction on Illinois
- 11 lands and have experience in dealing with damage from
- 12 soil compaction and other construction-related
- **13** projects.
- Since RICL first proposed their project, the
- energy picture in the United States has changed
- 16 dramatically. Massive quantities of natural gas have
- been found in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other eastern
- 18 states in just the last three years. If more power is
- needed in the eastern part of the U.S., then it should
- 20 be generated in the east using this domestic clean and
- 21 available source of energy. If RICL was trying to
- exploit the renewable portfolio gases for various
- 23 states and is willing to devastate Illinois farmland to
- 24 help eastern states meet some poorly planned existing

| | 184 |
|----|---|
| 1 | legislation requiring renewable energy, then the |
| 2 | legislation and regulation needs to be reviewed in |
| 3 | light of the rapidly changing energy situation in |
| 4 | the U.S. |
| 5 | I'm urging the ICC to please deny RICL's |
| 6 | petition to gain public utility status. It is clear |
| 7 | that they are not one. |
| 8 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir. |
| 9 | (Appl ause.) |
| 10 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Kelvin Ho? |
| 11 | Kelvin Ho? |
| 12 | (No response.) |
| 13 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Elias Friedman? |
| 14 | Elias Friedman? |
| 15 | (No response.) |
| 16 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Christina |
| 17 | S-c-i -a-n-n-a. |
| 18 | (No response.) |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: The last name is |
| 20 | 0'Hare, 0'Hare. Is there an 0'Hare in here? |
| 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Rebecca Marshall? |
| 23 | (No response.) |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Ashley Ernst? |

| | 185 |
|----|---|
| 1 | (No response.) |
| 2 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Madison Davis? |
| 3 | Madison Davis. |
| 4 | PARTICIPANT: I have a letter here from |
| 5 | Madi son. |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. I'll |
| 7 | take that. |
| 8 | Matt Kenney? |
| 9 | (No response.) |
| 10 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: And Ken |
| 11 | F-u-n-f-s-i-n-n. Okay, you're next. |
| 12 | Go ahead. |
| 13 | MR. STEFFEN: Hello. My name is |
| 14 | Matt Steffen, S-t-e-f-f-e-n. I am in support of the |
| 15 | Rock Island Clean Line for several reasons, the main |
| 16 | reason being that the Energy Information Administration |
| 17 | has predicted a 25 percent increase in demand for |
| 18 | electricity over the next three decades. Projects like |
| 19 | this are necessary to expect to supply reliable and |
| 20 | affordable electricity. |
| 21 | In the short term this project will provide |
| 22 | new jobs and tax revenues to Illinois, both of which |
| 23 | are badly needed. |
| 24 | To speak a little further on the Rock Island |

- 1 Clean Line Project, it is estimated that the RICL
- 2 project will result in electricity-related global
- warming use by about 9 percent.
- 4 So in short, I support this project and would
- 5 like to bring it to Illinois.
- 6 (Appl ause.)
- 7 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Go ahead.
- **8** You're Matt?
- 9 MR. FUNFSINN: I'm Ken. Ken Funfsinn,
- **10** F-u-n-f-s-i-n-n.
- 11 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. Go ahead.
- MR. FUNFSINN: If someone put a lemonade
- stand up in your front yard and you couldn't do
- 14 anything about it, you wouldn't like it very much.
- 15 Well, that's how I feel about Rock Island Clean Line
- 16 energy transmission project.
- Rock Island wants to take a 200-foot easement
- 18 through eminent domain and build a monstrous tower
- which would lead to disastrous effects for my farmland.
- 20 This project will likely result in soil compaction,
- 21 drain tile destruction, and lower grain production
- rates on any family's farm. Not only would the towers
- 23 hinder crop production on our land, it will also be
- 24 more difficult and more dangerous for us to farm.

- 1 Tractors, weeders, and crop dusters will not be able to
- 2 operate safely around the towers. These factors alone
- 3 will result in a decrease in property value in my land.
- 4 It is also important to consider what health
- 5 impacts these giant power lines will have on the
- 6 community. According to a study in COMPEL, The
- 7 International Journal for Computation and Mathematics
- 8 in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, researchers
- **9** found that exposure to high-voltage direct current
- 10 transmission lines temporarily affect the
- 11 prooxidant-antioxidant balance in living organisms.
- According to the Department of Environmental
- 13 Medicine, keeping a healthy oxidant balance is
- 14 imperative for your body to be able to fight off
- 15 diseases. Would you want to live near or under or eat
- food that is grown under these lines?
- 17 Since Rock Island has not developed a single
- transmission line or operated any kind of energy
- business and has not demonstrated an ability to manage
- a major high-voltage transmission line, the landowners
- 21 are at risk. What would happen if RICL goes out of
- business? RICL is offering no protection to landowners
- 23 who are to be burdened with lines in the event that
- they are constructed and the facilities have to be

- 1 scrapped. This creates a real and unreasonable risk of
- 2 becoming a stranded asset and an abandonment with no
- 3 financial security to be provided should the lines and
- 4 towers be decommissioned. Can you imagine having a
- 5 huge rusting tower in the middle of your property and
- 6 having no control over it?
- 7 This transmission line would be harmful not
- 8 only to farmers but also to Illinois businesses.
- 9 Illinois would only serve as a conduit to connect
- out-of-state electric generation to out-of-state
- 11 customers, generating zero dollars for the Illinois
- 12 economy.
- Additionally, Illinois-based wind development
- 14 would be harmed by the project, as it would usurp
- market opportunities for Illinois' wind developers and
- take up valuable transmission corridors for a line
- which Illinois generators would be unable to connect.
- 18 Everyone in the area would be denied the opportunity to
- 19 put up a wind turbine.
- These are just a few of the reasons I believe
- 21 that the ICC should not grant public utility status to
- 22 Rock Island Clean Line. Thank you.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 24 (Appl ause.)

| | 189 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Mike Clemmons? |
| 2 | Mi ke Clemmons? |
| 3 | (No response.) |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jim Carvess, |
| 5 | 1251 Illinois Avenue? |
| 6 | (No response.) |
| 7 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: William Reynolds? |
| 8 | Barb Reynolds, too. |
| 9 | Hi, William. |
| 10 | MR. REYNOLDS: William Reynolds, |
| 11 | R-e-y-n-o-I -d-s. |
| 12 | As an electric lineman and electric crew |
| 13 | foreman with over 40 years in the field, I firmly |
| 14 | believe that this HVDC is not in the best interests of |
| 15 | Illinois citizens. |
| 16 | The energy transmitted on this line is of no |
| 17 | use to the citizens of the state with the possible |
| 18 | exception of a few on the PJM grid who, as mentioned |
| 19 | earlier, communities just like this would benefit. But |
| 20 | you can't take any energy off of an HVDC line. It goes |
| 21 | on at one end, comes off at the other. Everybody else |
| 22 | just gets walked on on the way through. There's some |
| 23 | possible exception of a few on the PJM grid on the east |
| 24 | side of Illinois that will get some use out of this. |

| 1 | Where is the benefit for Illinois communities |
|----|---|
| 2 | other than the East Coast and Chicago or the east |
| 3 | border of Chicago? Are we to do this for a few |
| 4 | temporary jobs as construction crews use our Illinois |
| 5 | farmlands and forests to churn out profits for East |
| 6 | Coast billionaires operating out of Texas who even |
| 7 | refuse to keep their books in Illinois? |
| 8 | According to Commonwealth Edison, no proof of |
| 9 | increased reliability in the existing Illinois grid has |
| 10 | been proven. Distributed diversified generation makes |
| 11 | more sense than a dedicated transmission line and more |
| 12 | permanent in-state jobs. One fault on a structure |
| 13 | interrupts the supply on a dedicated line. Distributed, |
| 14 | diversified generation would require multiple faults at |
| 15 | multiple locations to appreciably affect the system as |
| 16 | a whole. |
| 17 | The jobs and economic development questions |
| 18 | are readily addressed through developing and advancing |
| 19 | the already existing smart grid energy efficiency and |
| 20 | clean energy initiatives in-state wind, solar, clean |
| 21 | coal, and possibly nukes with some new technology. This |
| 22 | path forward provides employment and entrepreneurial |
| 23 | opportunities, creating long-term in-state jobs for |
| 24 | Illinois residents and taxpayers. Pursuing these |
| | |

- 1 objectives will advance Illinois' goal of reducing our
- 2 carbon footprint.
- 3 RICL spends a lot of time banging the clean
- 4 energy drum, but FERC has already ruled they must
- 5 transport energy for all producers, coal, nuclear, gas,
- 6 and solar and wind. RICL argued that they needed an
- 7 environmental organization and renewable energy
- 8 developers on board to help ensure the project's
- 9 acceptance, and FERC ruled against that granting the
- 10 ability for even one year to sidestep the law.
- 11 This merchant transmission line is strictly a
- venture capital proposition with little or no actual
- 13 real-world property investment. A proposed line from a
- 14 proposed supply to a proposed market does not seem a
- 15 fair trade for current Illinois taxpayers.
- 16 If granted public utility status, RICL could
- then use eminent domain to take property from tax
- 18 paying Illinois citizens at bargain prices. This would
- in turn devalue the worth of that entire property for
- up to 20 percent according to some real estate studies.
- The presence of power line structures would
- 22 compromise present and future use and the value of land
- 23 so used. Farms in Illinois are businesses. How well
- 24 would this be accepted if RICL wanted to cut through a

```
192
     Caterpillar or John Deere factory compromising their
 1
 2
     productivity and flexibility of land use both now and
     in the future?
 3
 4
               I firmly believe that the Illinois Commerce
     Commission should deny the right to public utility
 5
 6
     status for RICL.
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you,
 7
 8
     William.
                           (Appl ause.)
 9
10
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Charlie Laskoms.
     is he here? Charlie L-a-s-k-o-m-s.
11
                    PARTICIPANT: I've got a letter from him.
12
13
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Why don't you
     just give it to me.
14
               Isai ah Jones?
15
16
                           (No response.)
17
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO:
                                              Madhuri Shukla?
18
     Do you have a letter? Okay. Just give it to me.
19
               Mary Powell?
                           (No response.)
20
                    HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jeff Landers.
21
     Okay, Jeff.
22
                    MS. REYNOLDS:
                                    Barb Reynolds,
23
24
     R-e-y-n-o-I -d-s.
```

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

| | 193 |
|----|--|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Could you |
| 2 | step up? |
| 3 | MS. REYNOLDS: Rock Island Clean Line is |
| 4 | not a good plan nor is it environmentally sound. |
| 5 | Long distance transmission lines use up |
| 6 | valuable conservation land. This particular line plans |
| 7 | on cutting through private woodlands which are |
| 8 | important local wildlife habitat. It plans to fragment |
| 9 | an old growth and historic hardwood forest in which |
| 10 | bald eagles have nested, 100-year-old hardwood stands, |
| 11 | and oak woods which incidentally have not been assessed |
| 12 | for the presence of Indiana brown bats or other |
| 13 | endangered species. Rock Island Clean Line's easement |
| 14 | of 200 to 300 feet with the prior clear cutting would |
| 15 | probably use herbicides to maintain openness. |
| 16 | This long distance line is not a green |
| 17 | solution; it is industrialization. It's ironic that |
| 18 | RICL represents itself as a clean line when according |
| 19 | to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's |
| 20 | May 22nd, 2012, testimony, it stated and I quote |
| 21 | "Additionally, Rock Island contends that establishing a |
| 22 | preference for renewables is essential in developing the |
| 23 | project because interested stakeholders and potential |
| 24 | customers, including environmental organizations and |

- 1 renewable energy developers, are less likely to support
- 2 a transmission project that will ultimately be used to
- 3 transmit coal-fired generation, "closed quote.
- 4 In other words, RICL needed the renewable
- 5 energy label in order to get environmental organizations
- 6 to back their transmission line development, a line
- 7 that will ultimately be used to transmit coal-fired
- **8** generation.
- **9** Essentially, RICL can be nothing more than
- another transmission line which must carry electricity
- 11 from any dirty generating source according to FERC
- 12 rules. All transmission lines must obey FERC rules.
- 13 Rock Island Clean Line's request for a preference to
- 14 aid in their selling to environmental groups was
- deni ed.
- 16 Establishing and maintaining local Illinois
- 17 clean energy generation and distribution and using
- 18 energy efficiency makes more sense and supplies more
- 19 Illinois jobs than whipping up another and unneeded
- transmission line.
- What is particularly disheartening to
- landowners is that this line is not needed in this era
- of anemic energy consumption growth according to the
- 24 Edison Electric Institute. Furthermore, the green

| | 195 |
|----|--|
| 1 | energy model of local generation/distribution and |
| 2 | energy efficiency saves increasingly imperiled wild |
| 3 | lands, lands that their owners are trying to protect. |
| 4 | Please deny Rock Island Clean Line public |
| 5 | utility status. |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, Barb. |
| 7 | (Appl ause.) |
| 8 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Dale Mann? |
| 9 | Okay. You're next. |
| 10 | MR. LANDERS: Jeff Landers, L-a-n-d-e-r-s. |
| 11 | I would like to firmly state that I would ask |
| 12 | the Illinois Commerce Commission to deny Rock Island |
| 13 | Clean Line public utility status on many premises. |
| 14 | I'm an agricultural education teacher, and |
| 15 | the very first day of Introduction to Ag class I teach |
| 16 | my students that agriculture is our most important and |
| 17 | essential industry that we have in the United States |
| 18 | and Illinois. Over 26 percent of individuals in the |
| 19 | United States are employed in some way in agriculture. |
| 20 | I'm asking that the Commission deny Rock Island Clean |
| 21 | Line the chance to sacrifice our most important and |
| 22 | essential industry. |
| 23 | Last year over \$22.4 billion worth of |
| 24 | agricultural products were produced in the state of |

| | 196 |
|----|--|
| 1 | Illinois, and over 1 million people were employed by |
| 2 | agriculture. Why should a private company of private |
| 3 | investors be allowed to sacrifice our efficiency in |
| 4 | agriculture? Farmland is a nonrenewable resource. |
| 5 | It's something that we cannot lose more of, and taking |
| 6 | 12,000 acres out of production is not a good sacrifice |
| 7 | for agriculture to make. |
| 8 | As farms and agriculturists, we are not |
| 9 | against renewable energy, but we are here to protect |
| 10 | our best interests of being profitable, well-minded |
| 11 | individuals in our business. |
| 12 | Once again, I ask that we deny Rock Island |
| 13 | Clean Line public utility status. Thank you. |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 15 | (Appl ause.) |
| 16 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Marti Borger. |
| 17 | PARTICIPANT: I have a letter from her. |
| 18 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Just hand it |
| 19 | to me. |
| 20 | Marvin R-i-e-w-e-r-t-s? |
| 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Linda Johnson? |
| 23 | (No response.) |
| 24 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Dan Johnson? |

| 197 |
|---|
| (No response.) |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Brandon Leavitt? |
| MR. LEAVITT: Here. |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. You're up |
| next. Go ahead, Dale. |
| MR. MANN: I just want to say that I |
| support all the opposing comments, and I did mail a |
| letter in which I did get a reply from you saying you |
| got it, and I appreciate that very much. |
| That's all I have. |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| (Appl ause.) |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: You're Brandon. |
| Wait one second. |
| Paul Finley? |
| (No response.) |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Barney Neshold. |
| MR. NESHOLD: Here. |
| HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: You're next. |
| MR. LEAVITT: B-r-a-n-d-o-n, |
| L-e-a-v-i-t-t. |
| My name is Brandon Leavitt. I'm here as an |
| Illinois citizen to voice my support for the proposed |
| Rock Island Clean Line. |
| |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

I believe this project offers many benefits 1 to the state and our nation. In addition to the many 2 3 well-paid and needed jobs for Illinois tradespersons, this clean energy power line will help support local 4 5 governments and schools for many years following its completion. 6 I own a business that provides alternative 7 8 energy systems for homes, businesses, schools, 9 municipalities, and multifamily buildings all across 10 III i noi s. We've been in business for over 36 years and 11 are very proud of our many accomplishments. 12 The promise of lower cost energy from a 13 Rock Island Clean Line will impact our business and 14 actually make it more difficult for us to compete. The 15 faster the cost of electricity rises, the more 16 customers we have. So if this project hurts my 17 business, why am I in favor of it? The answer is 18 because I believe in clean energy. 19 Our country and the world are rapidly moving 20 away from dirty energy towards a clean energy future. 21 This shift is inevitable. Everyone wins when our air 22 is cleaner and our precious water is not contaminated. 23 It's important to understand the damage caused 24 by our reliance on dirty energy. Decades of burning

- 1 carbon is impacting our oceans and causing extremes in
- 2 our weather. All the easily accessible fossil fuels
- 3 have been found and consumed. Today discovering and
- 4 producing oil is very expensive and exceedingly
- 5 dangerous. Building pipelines across farmland,
- 6 aquifers and rivers to transport toxic oil has already
- 7 proven unreliable and dangerous. The billions we spend
- 8 in defense of our oil supplies can be better invested
- **9** here at home.
- Mining and burning coal is destroying land
- and waterways and polluting us with cancer causing
- 12 contaminants and mercury. Natural gas is a decent
- transition fuel, but the short-term benefit of lower
- 14 natural gas prices from increased hydraulic fracturing
- are not worth the cost and risk to our environment.
- Nuclear power is not the answer. Long-term consequences
- of our reliance on nuclear energy will burden future
- 18 generations for centuries. We can no longer afford to
- **19** be selfish.
- I believe we must all make sacrifices for the
- 21 greater common good. That is the true meaning of
- patriotism. We can no longer afford to be selfish.
- Many of those here today in opposition to
- this project are from hardworking, dedicated farm

- 1 families who deserve our thanks and grateful praise for
- 2 making our midwest the world's most productive
- 3 farmland. This power line may make it more difficult
- 4 for them to farm, and they do not want to give up any
- 5 bit of property in support of this project. "Not my
- 6 back yard" is a common and perfectly understandable
- 7 point of view. We do not live in a perfect world.
- 8 Nobody wants to see a power line where there wasn't one
- 9 yesterday. That's why fair financial compensation to
- 10 those directly affected is part of the process.
- At last month's hearing I heard it said that
- 12 Illinois does not need this wind generated energy and
- would only act as a pass-through for states east of
- 14 Illinois. If this is true, then why is Commonwealth
- 15 Edison against it? If it is not going to lower
- 16 electricity rates and offer competition, why would
- 17 they care?
- 18 I've also heard speakers ridicule the project
- 19 because a billionaire was behind the RICL. Perhaps it
- takes a billionaire to make it happen. Personally, I'm
- 21 thankful that a very wealthy individual is willing to
- invest his fortune in a clean energy project that helps
- our country achieve energy independence and will spend
- 24 many, many millions of dollars in our state, as well.

1 Some have said that the construction jobs 2 building the power towers, stringing miles and miles of 3 wire, building power transfer stations and access roads 4 are temporary and not worth disruption to some of the 5 To those skilled laborers who are out local community. 6 of work, I'm sure they'd rather have a good paying job 7 for a year or two as opposed to no job at all. 8 those local suppliers who can provide materials for the 9 project and support for the workers, I'm sure they'd 10 rather have this project to grow their business than no 11 business at all. 12 Many farmers will earn additional, steady 13 Of course, there will be permanent jobs income. 14 created, and many Illinois communities will see their 15 tax receipts grow, which will serve to hold down local 16 property taxes. 17 This transition to clean energy is important. 18 Our country has achieved many great accomplishments. 19 We can and should unite to do all we can to build a 20 more prosperous, safe, and healthy future for all of us 21 and our children and their children's children. 22 The Native Americans who farmed and lived off 23 the land before us believed it was worth protecting for 24 generations to follow. Our bible teaches us to put

- 1 others above ourselves and to leave the earth a little
- 2 better than we found it. Our Earth is a fantastic and
- 3 remarkable planet. It's the only one we have. I
- 4 believe that Rock Island Clean Line is an important
- 5 step towards improving our economy, our environment,
- 6 and our way of life, and that is why I am here today in
- 7 support of its commencement and completion.
- 8 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 9 (Appl ause.)
- 10 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: What is
- 11 your name?
- MR. NESHOLD: Barney Neshold.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Merlin Nodland?
- 14 PARTICIPANT: He's out harvesting. And
- 15 many others, too. He sent a written document. It's
- 16 really too bad the original one wasn't held in this gym
- because it would have been full.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Andrea Rackmyer?
- 19 Okay, you're next. And then Carol Wilson. Okay.
- 20 You're after that.
- 21 Okay. Go ahead.
- MR. NESHOLD: I just have a couple of
- 23 comments. I attended two of the meetings that RICL had
- 24 here, and one of the things that I first asked was

- 1 about underground, which I imagine everybody asked. I
- 2 was told, "Well, it costs more." And that's true.
- 3 Mr. Doughty was told it was because the wire would heat
- 4 up. Maybe that's true, too, with the equipment they
- 5 use. But there are DC systems that can go underground
- 6 that used to cost 15 times as much, then it became
- 7 5 times as much. The equipment kept improving and it's
- 8 down to the point now where if you consider all of
- 9 the -- people have taken all of the costs included in
- 10 land evaluation and all that kind of thing, and putting
- 11 it together is almost a wash. And I guess what I'm
- asking is that they submit something that shows that
- they are charging as little as possible to the public
- 14 with their above-ground system. I think underground is
- possible. Yes, it would cost more but there's more to
- 16 it than that. You can look at national security is
- one; underground has got to be better for that.
- 18 Protection against things like solar storms, if we get
- another big one like the one in the 1800s that sent
- sparks down the telegraph wires and things like that.
- Just one other thing. They're assuming that
- the only way to cash in on the power out in the Plaines
- is to send electrons to the East Coast. That's not the
- only way. And I asked, wouldn't it make more sense to

- 1 convert to hydrogen, which a lot of people talk about,
- 2 regionally and then ship that one way or another. And
- 3 it was told, well, yeah, theoretically that's something
- 4 you could do, but that's not what we do and that's a
- 5 reasonable response.
- 6 But I've read the literature on that and
- 7 taken an interest in it. Germany is currently using a
- 8 method where they can get by the problem of brittle
- 9 pipeline if you try to go through existing pipelines.
- 10 They're putting hydrogen in with natural gas and
- 11 pulling it out again somewhere else.
- So there are other methods. It's not like
- we're the only way. "We're," meaning RICL is the
- 14 only way.
- 1'm also against them on all kinds of other
- 16 grounds, but those are my main comments.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. Thank you
- 18 very much.
- 19 (Appl ause.)
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: What's your name?
- MS. RACKMYER: Andrea Rackmyer,
- **22** R-a-c-k-m-y-e-r.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Just a second.
- 24 Connor Swenson.

| | 205 |
|----|---|
| 1 | (No response.) |
| 2 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Tybee McLaughlin? |
| 3 | Another Letter. Okay. |
| 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: All right. |
| 6 | Brian Urbaszewski? |
| 7 | Is that a letter you're going to hand |
| 8 | me? Okay. |
| 9 | And Ryan Scott. |
| 10 | MR. SCOTT: I'm Ryan Scott. |
| 11 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Are you going |
| 12 | to speak? |
| 13 | MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir. |
| 14 | MS. RACKMYER: First, I want to make it |
| 15 | clear to the gentleman that said it's a NIMBY issue, |
| 16 | it's not a "Not in my back yard" issue. It's a case of |
| 17 | we're not against real jobs, progress, clean energy, or |
| 18 | a clean environment; we're against a company of wolves |
| 19 | in sheep's clothing who are hiding behind a platform of |
| 20 | clean energy. |
| 21 | (Appl ause.) |
| 22 | MS. RACKMYER: Most of the jobs for RICL |
| 23 | are contracted with companies outside of our state, as |
| 24 | stated in RICL's own testimony to the ICC. Apparently, |
| 1 | |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- 1 RICL and Clean Line Energy partners has forgotten where
- 2 the food on their tables come from, the clothes on their
- 3 backs, and half of the materials our industries work
- 4 on. The dinner on your plate in the fancy restaurant
- 5 you eat in was raised by a farmer or a rancher. The
- 6 clothes you're wearing probably -- unless they're
- 7 nylon -- are created by farmers. Half the newspapers
- 8 you read, the ink is created by soy products.
- **9** People who are profiting most from this are
- 10 from out of state. The real jobs with money are for the
- 11 wealthy executives from Texas such as Jimmy Glotfelty,
- who ran the Department of Energy, which appoints and
- oversees members of the FERC with an established
- 14 ability to influence illegal groundwork under which
- this industry is regulated -- or should I say
- deregulated? -- something he can now profit from
- substantially in the private sector.
- We have Michael Skelly, which I notice he's
- 19 been missing the last two, former CEO for Horizon Wind,
- 20 now owned by EDP Renewables, a giant energy broker
- 21 which has received over \$400 million in green stimulus
- intended for U.S. companies. Horizon Wind was sold out
- just prior to the economic crash, and we believe that
- once Clean Line establishes its routes, it is very

- 1 likely to sell out to them, as well, especially since
- 2 Horizon Wind is still collecting probably billions in
- 3 stimulus moneys through U.S. university-funded
- 4 programs, and the taxpayers' money is going right out
- **5** of the country.
- 6 We also have other individuals, top
- 7 executives of Clean Line who are former Horizon Wind
- 8 executives and who also work for Enron. And might I
- 9 add Mr. Glotfelty praised Ken Lay's advice on how to
- open markets just months before they slipped into
- 11 bankruptcy and even in 2002 stated that Enron almost
- 12 always got it right at restructuring.
- We could easily compare Clean Line's company
- 14 profile to that of Enron. Do we really need a group
- reminiscent of Jeff Skilling and Ken Lay deciding
- whose property they would most likely take by eminent
- **17** domai n?
- And let's cover eminent domain. Public
- 19 utility status comes with eminent domain. It's part of
- 20 the package. Not to mention the fact we have other
- 21 states like New Mexico who created their own agency
- just to give Clean Line eminent domain for their
- 23 Centennial project, the only project on this list.
- Should we believe their claims that you don't

- want to take properties when you've done it in other
- 2 states? You've made it clear that's your intention.
- 3 Nothing that RICL and Clean Line Energy
- 4 partners can offer in Illinois is acceptable because
- 5 it's strictly for the profit of Clean Line executives
- 6 and its investment partners, and we are learning who
- 7 all of them are. We have a lot of big banks, and the
- 8 people of Illinois will gain nothing. They will lose
- 9 significant stake in the their own agricultural
- businesses, not to mention their homes and land.
- Rock Island Clean Line and Clean Line Energy
- partners spent years promoting this project to the
- 13 political clout, not the landowners. I got a little
- 14 flyer a few weeks before Christmas that my husband
- burned as junk mail because that's what it looked
- 16 like. I don't call that telling the landowners that
- 17 you're coming.
- 18 Illinois landowners are not easily swayed by
- 19 big money, and we're more than happy to look into
- 20 company practices before handing over the deeds to our
- 21 land. This is the second time in my life that I have
- 22 had to stand up against a project funded by government
- to take my land for someone else who has got more
- 24 money.

| | 209 |
|----|---|
| 1 | Farming is an honorable industry. Snake |
| 2 | drumming is not. |
| 3 | (Appl ause.) |
| 4 | MS. RACKMYER: Nothing that you have |
| 5 | offered us, your compensation or your renewable |
| 6 | portfolio standards that you say we have to abide by |
| 7 | renewable portfolio standards, if I have my information |
| 8 | correct, Clean Line Energy partner executives |
| 9 | contributed to that renewable portfolio standard; they |
| 10 | helped establish it. And if you look at the renewable |
| 11 | portfolio standard, wind got everything, solar got |
| 12 | nothing. I'd like to know how many people in Clean |
| 13 | Line have investment portfolios full of wind |
| 14 | investments. Basically, our congress is doing that, |
| 15 | and I can honestly see other individuals who will have |
| 16 | access to that information have probably invested in |
| 17 | things that are costing us the taxpayer money. |
| 18 | It takes a conscience to believe that it's |
| 19 | not right to take another man's home or land or |
| 20 | inheritance for any reason. I'm not sure that any of |
| 21 | the executives in Clean Line or their investment |
| 22 | partners have one. They've already sold out Horizon |
| 23 | Wind. Why shouldn't they sell the rest of us out to |
| 24 | EDP once they get these routes established? |

C

| | 210 |
|----|---|
| 1 | I don't want to hand my power production and |
| 2 | land rights to companies whose executives are more |
| 3 | likely to sell out to their foreign counterparts for |
| 4 | nothing more than greed. I ask the ICC to deny the |
| 5 | right of Rock Island Clean Line and Clean Line Energy |
| 6 | partners any public utility status. |
| 7 | As the other party said, they're not a public |
| 8 | utility. They're a private company with investment |
| 9 | bankers. They are nothing more than an energy broker, |
| 10 | and their company is nothing more than an Enron plum. |
| 11 | They are exactly the same. |
| 12 | Thank you. |
| 13 | (Appl ause.) |
| 14 | MR. SCOTT: My name is Ryan Scott; |
| 15 | R-y-a-n, S-c-o-t-t. I'm here as a resident of Illinois |
| 16 | and representative of Consumer Energy Alliance. We're |
| 17 | a trade association representing virtually every sector |
| 18 | of the economy from trucking, to organized labor, to |
| 19 | energy producers. The reason I'm here to speak in |
| 20 | favor of Rock Island is simple. Consumer Energy |
| 21 | Alliance and I support this project because it |
| 22 | represents an important piece of the energy puzzle to |
| 23 | supply consumers with affordable and reliable energy. |
| 24 | Anyone who plugs in their smart phone into an |
| | |

- 1 electrical outlet, fires up their television to watch
- 2 the Bears or perhaps a better football team or just
- 3 uses their air conditioner will benefit from this
- 4 project.
- 5 The bottom line is in the United States
- 6 demand is increasing. As one of the previous speakers
- 7 stated, according to the Department of Energy and
- 8 Energy Information Administration, forecasts of
- 9 25 percent increase in demand for electricity over the
- next three decades are expected in the United States.
- 11 At the same time, the supply of electricity is expected
- to decrease due to aging plants and tightening Federal
- 13 regulations. Many coal-fired power plants will be
- 14 shuttered in the coming decades.
- In Illinois coal, which we expect to be
- decreasing in production, actually makes up
- approximately 40 percent of the State's energy base
- 18 level. So that's an important piece of the puzzle that
- 19 will no longer be available to Illinoisans.
- For all the reasons stated above and in order
- to meet Illinois' energy needs, the Consumer Energy
- 22 Alliance and I support the Rock Island Clean Line
- 23 project.
- Thank you.

| | 212 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 2 | (Appl ause.) |
| 3 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Justin Smith? |
| 4 | Justin Smith? |
| 5 | (No response.) |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Daniel Kent? |
| 7 | Dani el Kent? |
| 8 | PARTICIPANT: Is that Kurt? |
| 9 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: You spelled it. |
| 10 | I'll go with it. |
| 11 | Thomas Townsend, you're next. |
| 12 | MR. KURT: My name is Daniel Kurt. I'm a |
| 13 | small business owner and an Illinois resident. I'd |
| 14 | like to share |
| 15 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Spell your name. |
| 16 | MR. KURT: K-u-r-t. |
| 17 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 18 | MR. KURT: I'd like to share my support |
| 19 | for the Rock Island Clean Line and encourage the ICC to |
| 20 | approve this important project. |
| 21 | It's extremely important for Illinois to be |
| 22 | part of our national effort to diversify our portfolio |
| 23 | with renewable power. There's more data that coal |
| 24 | power plants will be shutting down. We need to replace |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- 1 that power with clean and sustainable sources of
- 2 electricity. The wind that blows in western lowa is one
- 3 of the best renewable energy sources in North America.
- 4 As a small business owner, every dollar
- 5 counts, and every dollar I don't have to spend on energy
- 6 I can spend on my business. Illinois deregulated its
- 7 energy industry, so the law of supply and demand will
- 8 greatly impact energy prices. The more energy supply
- 9 we can bring to our state, the lower our electricity
- 10 bills will be. This is important to me in my business.
- I hope that our great state can be part of
- bringing in some of the best resources in the market,
- and I strongly urge ICC to approve this project.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 15 (Appl ause.)
- 16 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Bruce Sack.
- 17 Okay. Bruce, you'll be next.
- MR. TOWNSEND: Hi. My name is
- 19 Tom Townsend, T-o-w-n-s-e-n-d. I'm a construction
- worker, an Illinois resident, and an Illinois taxpayer,
- and I'm here to speak on behalf of the Rock Island
- 22 Clean Line.
- First off, I'd like to say I've been in
- 24 construction for over 20 years, and I hear a lot of

- 1 talk about these temporary construction jobs. Every
- 2 one I was ever on was temporary, but I've been doing it
- 3 for over 20 years, paying taxes, and doing what I can
- 4 to try and keep a job.
- 5 Also, I'd like it say that I'm a firm
- 6 believer in clean energy and anything to help with the
- 7 tax base to help keep my taxes down, and that's really
- 8 all I have to say. Thank you.
- **9** HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- (Appl ause.)
- MR. SACK: My name is Bruce Sack;
- **12** B-r-u-c-e, S-a-c-k.
- First of all, I'd like to say I oppose this
- 14 project. I oppose Rock Island Clean Line's proposed
- transmission project.
- 16 I attended the September forum and am
- 17 familiar with the online ICC comments. Nowhere have I
- heard anything pro about this transmission project that
- would warrant use of eminent domain. It's inevitable.
- 20 It's going to happen. As much support as there is
- against it, it's going to take an act of eminent domain
- to get all the easements.
- 23 Clearly, with the amount of people on the
- 24 forum opposing it and tonight during prime harvest

- 1 time, it's obvious that eminent domain is the only way
- 2 that Clean Line could acquire these easements.
- 3 Landowners are stewards of the land. They
- 4 realize the decisions made now will impact this land
- 5 for eternity. Shortsighted direction of this long haul
- 6 transmission lines that are not a part of a well-
- 7 thought through comprehensive plan is not worthy of
- 8 eminent domain. A few temporary jobs is not worth the
- 9 long-term loss of state agricultural jobs. There are
- ways for the state to fulfill their clean energy needs.
- 11 There's no need to sacrifice the landowners rights to
- their property and permanently affect the agricultural
- community for the business vision of this LLC.
- 14 Thank you.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 16 (Appl ause.)
- 17 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Van
- 18 D-r-i-m-m-e-l-e-n. Okay. You're next.
- MS. WILSON: Carol Wilson; C-a-r-o-l,
- 20 W-i-I-s-o-n. I oppose Rock Island Clean Line for many
- 21 reasons, but I will limit my remarks this evening to
- **22** a few.
- We, the current generation that are making
- 24 decisions that will impact not only our lives but the

- 1 lives of many generations to come, have to rise to a 2 high level of stewardship and management and decision 3 It is extremely unfair to shackle future maki ng. generations to less financial security. Therefore, we 4 5 need to take a vantage point that not only views 6 current consequences but also long-term consequences. 7 We have been living with high unemployment, 8 ever increasing debt, and a weak economy. This needs 9 The decisions that we make today carry an to change. 10 enormous burden due to their impact. The project 11 proposed by Clean Line is a highway to nowhere at a 12 time when there is considerable opportunity for us to 13 change the state of affairs. This is old technology at 14 a time when we all know that today's whatever is 15 tomorrow's dinosaur. 16 I have many times had the privilege of 17 hearing Dr. Edmond J. Seifried speak. He is a
- hearing Dr. Edmond J. Seifried speak. He is a
 professor of economics at Lafayette College. He serves
 as executive consultant for many groups, is the dean of
 Virginia and West Virginia Banking Schools, and has an
 educational consulting firm that works with the banking
 community on sound economic policy and development and
 many other credentials far too numerous to mention.

 On many occasions I have heard Dr. Ed

- 1 emphasize the importance of sound economic policy. He
- 2 has stated, and I quote, "Economic growth has been
- 3 extremely weak in the U.S. for decades, and while there
- 4 are many reasons for this reduction in our growth rate,
- 5 one of the major causes has been the large persistent
- 6 trade deficit. When imports exceed exports, economic
- 7 growth is reduced and job growth suffers."
- 8 Much of our trade growth can be traced to the
- 9 development of OPEC. Oil exporters ban together to
- determine the price of oil, which causes massive cash
- 11 flows to be redirected to oil producing countries. One
- only needs to look at the lavish lifestyle of many OPEC
- 13 countries to see the results of this newfound wealth
- 14 due to cartel price fixing. The U.S. accepted this
- underdog position and in many ways contributed to the
- outcome by neglecting the search to develop new sources
- **17** of oil.
- 18 It is clear that for economic growth to move
- forward the U.S. must become both more energy efficient
- 20 and independent. It is difficult to imagine the
- 21 scenario of stronger economic growth without energy
- independence. The development of new technology that
- is recovering enormous amounts of energy from shale
- rock is a game-changing event in our quest for energy

- 1 i ndependence.
- 2 Natural gas is much more environmentally
- 3 friendly than older sources of energy and much safer in
- 4 terms of production. Most Americans can recall the
- 5 tragic deaths of thousands of coal miners over the
- 6 years who labored to provide energy for our country.
- 7 The new technology involving shale rock production
- 8 poses little danger in comparison.
- **9** Natural gas is good for the U.S. economy
- 10 because it is produced domestically. It is abundant
- 11 with centuries of supplies available. Unlike coal, it
- 12 produces virtually no particulate emission. When
- burned, it releases carbon dioxide emissions that are
- 14 approximately 50 percent lower than coal. It is much
- 15 less expensive than other forms of energy, and,
- 16 finally, as mentioned above, will create new jobs and
- increase economic growth.
- These massive reserves stretch from New York
- 19 to Illinois. Let me repeat, these massive reserves
- 20 stretch from New York to Illinois. In southeastern
- 21 states the production has already started. The
- transmission lines proposed by Clean Line and others
- are unnecessary since the infrastructure uses natural
- gas in place and the same customer base. The gas is

- 1 coming out of the ground with sufficient pressure that
- 2 the companies are using the pressure to generate
- 3 electricity and have still have the natural gas to use.
- 4 This is a double pop. This will provide sustainable
- 5 jobs. This is economic growth. There is available
- 6 technology to filter the small amount of emissions.
- 7 Transmission lines do not give us energy
- 8 independence as only one-third of the electricity is
- 9 from wind. Over 100 percent of the natural gas
- 10 produces electricity. The customer base neither wants
- 11 nor needs this electricity from these lines. This is a
- superhighway to nowhere. It is too costly by
- 13 comparison. Transmission lines are like using the
- 14 dial-up instead of a wireless connection.
- I request that the Commission deny Clean Line
- 16 public utility status and to call a moratorium on all
- 17 lines for further review. And I would like to further
- 18 state that since this is a continuation of the first
- meeting, I think it is improper for the vice president
- 20 to speak. The other speakers that night did not return
- 21 to speak.
- 22 And I respectfully submit this. Thank you
- 23 very much.
- 24 (Appl ause.)

| | 220 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: For the court |
| 2 | reporter's sake, we're going to have to take a |
| 3 | 10-minute break after this gentleman speaks. |
| 4 | MR. VAN DRIMMELEN: I'm Bob Van Drimmelen, |
| 5 | V-a-n D-r-i-m-m-e-l-e-n. I'm a real estate broker and |
| 6 | a home inspector. |
| 7 | Any homes in the vicinity of this line will |
| 8 | see their value drop. Will they have their property |
| 9 | taxes cut? Will RICL make up the difference if they |
| 10 | sell? Will RICL pay for the crop loss if the |
| 11 | landowners can't spray their fields? Will the loss of |
| 12 | land value and crop loss be paid to those who will |
| 13 | receive no gain or to a few people to get temporary |
| 14 | jobs at the expense of all those who permanently have |
| 15 | their home and land values depreciated? |
| 16 | Thank you. |
| 17 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you, sir. |
| 18 | (Appl ause.) |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: She needs to |
| 20 | rest. In 10 minutes we'll be right back here. |
| 21 | (Whereupon, a recess was had at |
| 22 | 8:42 p.m., after which the |
| 23 | proceedings were resumed at |
| 24 | 8:52 p.m. as follows:) |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

| | 221 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. Let's |
| 2 | continue everyone. Please take a seat. |
| 3 | Do I have a Paul Faber? |
| 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Clair Sack? |
| 6 | (No response.) |
| 7 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Christine |
| 8 | Thorsen? Okay, you're next. |
| 9 | And then Carol S-e-g-g I can't read the |
| 10 | rest. Is she here? |
| 11 | (No response.) |
| 12 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Stef Thompson? |
| 13 | (No response.) |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Ashley Collins? |
| 15 | Any of those that I've called? |
| 16 | Jason Steinberger? |
| 17 | (No response.) |
| 18 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Brett King? |
| 19 | (No response.) |
| 20 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Antonio Franco? |
| 21 | (No response.) |
| 22 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jeff Zethmayr? |
| 23 | Okay. Then we'll go from there. |
| 24 | State your name and spell it. |
| I | |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- 1 MS. SACK: My name is Clair Sack;
- 2 C-I-a-i-r, S-a-c-k. I oppose Clean Line, LLC's,
- **3** project RICL.
- 4 On September 18th Clean Line bussed in van
- 5 loads of Chicago area students to testify for the RICL
- 6 project at the ICC public forum. The students'
- 7 intentions were to promote Clean Line Energy, and it
- 8 was obvious the well-meaning students knew little about
- **9** the project at hand.
- One student said, "We need to get that
- 11 electricity to Chicago." The proposed DC transmission
- 12 line would not carry electricity generated by wind
- farms in Illinois and, in fact, would compete with
- 14 Clean Line Energy produced in Illinois.
- Another student announced "Farmers for
- 16 fracking. Farmers for dirty oil." These students were
- not educated. I don't feel that the Clean Line made a
- 18 responsible or ethical decision in bringing these
- 19 students down, with providing them an orange shirt, a
- 20 bus ride, and possibly a free meal. These students
- 21 were manipulated by Clean Line by snake oil sales
- 22 tactics. I truly question this company's business
- ethics, and the misinformation or the absence of
- 24 information regarding the topic of the ICC forum was

| | 22 |
|----|--|
| 1 | apparent. |
| 2 | For myself and future generations, I, too, am |
| 3 | concerned with the footprint left behind, but I feel I |
| 4 | have a much clearer picture of the proposed Clean Line |
| 5 | project and the dirty prints it would leave. Across |
| 6 | Iowa and Illinois you'll find many opposing the RICL |
| 7 | project. Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, and |
| 8 | southern Illinois have opposition groups to the |
| 9 | proposed Clean Line transmission lines. Why? Because |
| 10 | of the dirty footprint they would leave behind. Clean |
| 11 | Line plans to take away from private landowners their |
| 12 | rights, and all of that for a private company's gain. |
| 13 | RICL is not part of the comprehensive |
| 14 | transmission plan that has been studied in context with |
| 15 | other proposed transmission plans. No environmental |
| 16 | impact studies have been done. Clean Line is a venture |
| 17 | capitalist idea as to how to make money for themselves. |
| 18 | When I see the white shirts embroidered, all I see is |
| 19 | green as in money in my pockets. That's what Clean |
| 20 | Line represents and what the company is concerned about. |
| 21 | The pro-Clean Line supporters I have heard |
| 22 | from are very poorly understanding ecology-minded |
| 23 | individuals with delusional thinking when the only |
| 24 | clean energy source of the future is only harnessable |

- 1 from western states halfway across the country from
- 2 where it is needed or the supporters or individuals who
- 3 believe there will be money in their pockets if the
- 4 project goes through.
- In contrast, when I look across this diverse
- 6 audience of opposition, I see stewards of the land and
- 7 people concerned for the future of their state and
- 8 landowners rights. How many have you come in
- 9 opposition? That number is truly remarkable
- 10 considering the three weeks' notice of this event's
- opportunity to give verbal testimony and the many who
- are are elderly citizens who don't care to drive at
- 13 night or long distances or who are not physically
- 14 capable of standing in line or sitting in these
- 15 bleachers which I think we can all agree are very
- 16 uncomfortable. The last few three weeks have been
- 17 prime harvest time, and with a storm predicted for
- 18 tomorrow, many are probably still working. This is the
- 19 busiest time of year for landowners who rely on the
- 20 harvest, and even so, we've had a good turnout tonight.
- 21 Please take that into consideration.
- I have been asked repeatedly if other
- 23 affected counties will be granted public forums. I ask
- you to consider this request like Iowa has. Please

- 1 take forums to the people most directly impacted over
- 2 the 200-mile route. I appreciate the ICC effort near
- 3 Mendota, but I encourage the Commission to hear what
- 4 other counties have to say.
- In conclusion, I ask you to listen to your
- 6 constituents and don't allow Clean Line to hide behind
- 7 the clean energy claim like their snake oil smiles and
- 8 white shirts. Putting in bussed-in RICL supporters in
- 9 bright orange T-shirts sent the message loud and clear;
- this issue is placing people's land at risk and will set
- 11 precedence for the future. We need to stop Clean Line
- from leaving dirty footprints across our nonrenewable
- natural resources, forests, and timberland.
- 14 Thank you.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- (Appl ause.)
- MR. KING: Good evening. My name is
- 18 Brett King; B-r-e-t-t, King, K-i-n-g, and I work for a
- 19 small business that's local to our area that has
- 20 recently had the opportunity to work with Clean Line
- 21 Energy. The staff members that I directly work with
- 22 display a great sense of professionalism, honesty, and
- overall concern that the proper steps were taken to
- ensure compliance with all governmental agencies and

- 1 regulatory bodies.
- 2 Based on the premise that this project
- 3 ensures a proper quality control and quality assurance
- 4 methods will be incorporated into the construction
- 5 phase, I feel the project can offer numerous benefits
- 6 to our region by the following:
- 7 One, utilizing clean, free, recyclable energy
- 8 sources through wind power. Two, enable us to become
- 9 less dependent on fossil fuels and their associated
- 10 harmful effects on the environment. Three, potentially
- 11 lowering energy costs. Four, create much needed jobs
- 12 for workers in LaSalle County and other counties
- 13 throughout Illinois. As of August of this year,
- 14 LaSalle County reported an unemployment rate of
- 15 10.4 percent, which is 1.2 percent higher than the
- state's average and 3.1 percent higher than the
- 17 national average. Without projects such as Clean Line
- 18 energies, LaSalle County could remain stagnant in its
- unemployment rate as it has for the past few years.
- We must not destroy the natural soil that is
- 21 so vitally important to the agricultural community
- during the construction phase of the project. It is
- just as important that the land impacted be as
- 24 productive after construction as it was before. With

- 1 the advancement in technology that is currently out
- 2 there today this could be possible.
- Furthermore, proper engineering design must
- 4 be given its due diligence, and it is imperative that
- 5 agricultural science be incorporated into the
- 6 construction documents. Strict quality control methods
- 7 must also be in place to ensure adherence to these
- 8 specifications. In addition, it is my recommendation
- 9 that is independent quality assurance by independent
- 10 companies having expertise in agriculture and soils be
- 11 utilized as a checks and balance system to ensure such
- 12 compliance.
- 13 If such safeguards are placed up front, then
- 14 the project benefits previously mentioned could be
- 15 successfully attained. In my experience working for
- 16 Clean Line Energy and its staff, I'm confident that
- 17 they are willing to take all the necessary steps that I
- mentioned above in order to provide for a successful
- 19 and clean project.
- Thank you.
- 21 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 22 (Appl ause.)
- MR. ZETHMAYR: Hello. My name is
- 24 Jeff Zethmayr; J-e-f-f, Z-e-t-h-m-a-y-r. I am an

- 1 independent energy consultant and Illinois native from
- 2 LaGrange. I'm here tonight to speak in support of the
- 3 Rock Island Clean Line project.
- 4 This new transmission line will bring enough
- 5 clean energy to power over a million homes. That's
- 6 energy that would enter the grid right here in central
- 7 Illinois 50 miles away.
- It would also reduce wholesale power rates in
- 9 Illinois by \$320 million dollars in its first year
- 10 alone. But mostly importantly, it will provide some
- 11 much needed protection against future increases in
- 12 electricity costs.
- 13 Illinois currently enjoys some of the
- 14 cheapest electricity in the country, and affordable
- power is a major economic factor in the attractiveness
- of the state. This benefits everyone who pays State
- 17 taxes or uses State services, but this competitive
- 18 advantage is at risk. Even with the increased energy
- 19 efficiency electricity in use, as has been mentioned,
- 20 has been projected to increase by about 25 percent in
- 21 the next 25 years with most of that growth taking place
- in major cities like Chicago. If we as a state wish to
- 23 continue enjoying cheap electricity and the economic
- benefits it brings, we need to develop new sources

- 1 of power.
- 2 Take a look at the alternatives to renewable
- 3 energy. Illinois currently leads the country in
- 4 nuclear power, but the U.S. hasn't built a new nuclear
- 5 plant since the '70s, and the cost of a new plant makes
- 6 construction unlikely. Coal power plants cause asthma
- 7 and are major contributors to global climate change,
- 8 but more importantly are a risky investment.
- 9 Natural gas exploration will start in
- 10 Illinois in the next year or two, and while fracking
- 11 technology has gotten safer, gas as a commodity is at
- its lowest price relative to oil history, which means a
- price increase is likely in the near future.
- 14 Illinois needs to secure a diversified energy
- portfolio over the next 25 years, and that means
- bringing more renewable power in the state. There is
- 17 massive wind energy potential in northwest lowa that is
- 18 currently trapped because there's nowhere for it to go.
- Much has been made tonight of FERC's recent
- decision that Clean Line must be generation agnostic
- 21 and accept all kinds of energy. While it's true coal
- plants are closing, retiring all over the region and no
- one is going to go build one in the middle of lowa far
- 24 from the demand and the coal reserves just because new

- 1 merchant transmission lines open, but it is a perfect
- 2 location for new wind.
- 3 Projects like the Rock Island Clean Line are
- 4 precisely the infrastructure Illinois needs to remain
- 5 an attractive place to do business. I encourage the
- 6 ICC to approve Clean Line and its application for the
- 7 Rock Island Clean Line Project.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
- 9 tonight.
- 10 (Appl ause.)
- 11 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Let me go back
- 12 here. What's your name, ma'am?
- MS. THORSEN: Christine Thorsen.
- 14 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Let me back up
- 15 here. Paul Faber.
- PARTICIPANT: He's farming.
- 17 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: And Clair Sack,
- 18 she spoke.
- 19 Carol Seggebunch, S-e-g-g-e-b-u-n-c-h?
- 20 (No response.)
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Stef Thompson?
- 22 (No response.)
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Ashley Collins.
- 24 (No response.)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

| | 231 |
|----|--|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jason |
| 2 | Steinberger? |
| 3 | (No response.) |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Brett King |
| 5 | al ready spoke. |
| 6 | Antonio Franco? |
| 7 | (No response.) |
| 8 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Jeff |
| 9 | Z-e-t-h-a-m-y-s? |
| 10 | THE COURT REPORTER: He spoke. |
| 11 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: James |
| 12 | S-t-r-e-p-I-e-r-t? |
| 13 | (No response.) |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Joe Beckler |
| 15 | K-i-I-a-n-e-w-s-k-i? |
| 16 | (No response.) |
| 17 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Betsy Hartsman? |
| 18 | MS. HARTSMAN: Yes. |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. The first |
| 20 | name I can't see. The last name is spelled |
| 21 | K-a-n-k-a-m-i-d-z-e. |
| 22 | PARTICIPANT: I have a letter in support. |
| 23 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. |
| 24 | Karen S-t-r-e-m-I-a-u. |
| 1 | |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- MS. STREMLAU: Here.
- 2 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. All
- **3** right. Now, go ahead.
- 4 MS. THORSEN: Good evening. My name is
- 5 Christine Thorsen; C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e, T-h-o-r-s-e-n.
- 6 I'd like to thank you and thank the ICC for continuing
- 7 the hearing that was started last month. I've heard my
- 8 neighbors' names called, and I know they're out
- **9** bringing in their harvests.
- 10 Rock Island Clean Line project is not
- necessary in our state or beyond. We have energy
- 12 sources. This proposed transmission line will not
- carry Illinois energy or develop energy sources within
- 14 our windy cities. The supposed demand is artificially
- 15 created through legislation.
- The promised savings provided by Rock Island
- 17 Clean Line is based on the assumption that the cost of
- 18 energy will increase. Clean Line is gambling their
- development project on pay-to-play politics.
- 20 Rock Island Clean Line has not demonstrated
- 21 that they are capable of managing a utility. They have
- 22 no energy plants, no wind farms, no customers, and no
- 23 previous success managing such a project. Their
- investors and executive staff do have a history of

- 1 selling out to Goldman Sachs, a known international
- 2 conglomerate. Our land is too valuable to allow them
- 3 to sell Illinois business to international
- 4 conglomerates.
- 5 Can Rock Island Clean Line finance their
- 6 project? They have run through their investors' money
- 7 without guarantee of more. This is a speculative
- 8 project which according to the history of their
- 9 investors and chief executives will eventually be sold
- 10 off. Since Rock Island Clean Line is a private
- 11 company, Illinois citizens have no way to invest in the
- 12 project, and the landowners have no way to regain their
- 13 | I and and the easements when Rock Island Clean Line
- 14 sells their project.
- Rock Island Clean Line won't be a true public
- 16 utility, and when the company sells any part of the
- 17 proposed transmission line, Illinois loses the supposed
- 18 public utility potentially to international
- 19 conglomerates.
- This project undermines and bypasses energy
- 21 production and development within our own state. It
- 22 will cost jobs from reduced and hindered agricultural
- production. Rock Island Clean Line has not compared
- their supposed benefits to the costs of their project.

- 1 Instead they say that they do not have to factor in the
- 2 cost or that there is no cost.
- Rock Island Clean Line is not clean. They're
- 4 attempting to green wash their company with buzz words
- 5 like "clean" and "renewable" when in truth wind energy
- 6 is only a small fraction of the energy that will be
- 7 transmitted.
- 8 I do not oppose energy clean or dirty. I do
- 9 not oppose energy development or transmission that's
- 10 truly needed for our communities. I do oppose a
- 11 private company seeking our private land for their
- private gain at the expense of all of our citizens and
- to the detriment of our genuine public utilities.
- 14 Please deny Rock Island Clean Line public
- 15 utility status. Thank you.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 17 (Appl ause.)
- MS. HARTMAN: Betsy Hartman; B-e-t-s-y,
- 19 H-a-r-t-m-a-n. I want to thank the ICC for allowing us
- 20 another opportunity to hear our voices. Unfortunately,
- as you can tell, a lot of the opposition voices are not
- here because they're in the field.
- From the beginning RICL has told so many lies
- that the only way to tell they are not lying is when

they are not saying anything. 1 (Appl ause.) 2 3 MS. HARTMAN: I went to the June 2011 4 open house in Amboy, Illinois, and Mike Skelly, president of Clean Line, was my group leader. 5 Once he explained the project, one of the 6 first questions he was asked is if Clean Line applied 7 8 to the ICC yet. Mr. Skelly said they had not applied 9 to the ICC yet. Well, the truth is, as we all know, 10 they first applied to the ICC October of 2010, eight months earlier. 11 12 (Appl ause.) 13 Mr. Skelly and all his PR people at those 14 open houses, we don't even know how many lies you were 15 telling us; we couldn't keep track. Clean Line only talks about clean energy 16 17 running through these lines. That's also a little lie. 18 As we all know, wind energy is very unreliable. 19 must have fossil fuel energy running through these lines at all times to keep a steady supply of energy 20 21 coming through them. They can even have all fossil 22 fuel energy. They're not bound by any agreement saying 23 they must have clean energy running through these lines.

Another thing Clean Line promised is all the

- 1 local jobs this will produce, but they've hired an
- 2 out-of-state general contractor; they're going to bring
- 3 in their own cement plant and their own workers so they
- 4 can control the flow of cement for their own project.
- 5 The only local thing they have to buy is gravel. They
- 6 don't even have to hire the local gravel trucks. After
- 7 all these lies, does the public really believe hundreds
- 8 of local jobs will be brought to this area?
- 9 It was really funny listening to all the
- 10 Clean Line paid, prepared, and trained speakers at the
- 11 ICC forum in September. I could tell that Clean Line
- 12 gave them each speech they gave to each group they
- 13 talked to.
- Local leaders were told they would get so
- much tax money and jobs. Unions were told they would
- 16 get lots of new jobs. Local businesses, they were told
- they would get more business from all the extra people
- in the area. In other words, all the out-of-state
- 19 workers. They promised each group they talked to
- whatever they wanted to hear and then stated the price
- of electricity would have to go up by at least
- 50 percent. If Clean Line actually followed through on
- 23 all their promises, the State of Illinois would be
- 24 rolling in dough and would not have any debt. How many

- 1 more lies will Clean Line tell the ICC and the public?
- 2 I'm also worried about Clean Line's finances
- 3 coming through. It is my belief -- and I hope the ICC
- 4 will agree with me -- that a private company putting up
- 5 transmission lines should pay the entire cost
- 6 themselves and not burden the citizens of Illinois with
- 7 any of the cost.
- 8 As a farmer, I've learned that we must take
- 9 care of our land or it will not take care of you. I
- would not like to see our most valuable nonrenewable
- 11 green resource, our soil, be used for a transmission
- 12 line that is not in the best interests of the residents
- in Illinois. The soil in this area is some of the best
- 14 soil in the world, and agriculture is the number one
- industry in Illinois. We feed the world. Don't waste
- this is valuable resource on this project.
- My understanding is that the ICC should not
- approve this unless it benefits the people of Illinois.
- 19 Well, how does it benefit the people of Illinois? No
- turbines can transmit their energy on this. Nobody
- else can get energy off of this line directly without
- 22 going through their substation.
- We were told at the open houses in June 2011
- 24 that Clean Line wanted to send all of the electricity

- to the East Coast and hardly any would be used in 1 2 Is this another Clean Line lie? Why do they Illinois. 3 need a 200 feet easement? Are they going to sell part 4 of it to others for other transmission lines? I have a solution that will solve our 5 problems -- well, except Clean Line's. Clean Line 6 never told you that actually the best wind source in 7 the Midwest is on the Great Lakes. So with the best 8 9 wind source in Lake Michigan, why don't we put hundreds 10 of wind turbines on Lake Michigan and send that energy 11 to Chicago? Therefore, we don't need any transmission 12 lines to bring any more energy to Chicago. Produce the 13 energy close to where it is used. 14 Please do not set a new precedent by granting 15 a private company public utility status and eminent 16 domain in Illinois. Before any of this is done, a 17 study should be done to find need for such a project 18 and also to coordinate any other transmission lines 19 that may be in the works. We don't need transmission lines running north, south, east, and west crisscrossing 20
- everything; we only need transmission lines that
- actually help people of Illinois.
- (Appl ause.)
- MS. HARTMAN: Don't grant Clean Line's

- 1 request for public utility status, and do not grant
- 2 them eminent domain so they can take over our farmland.
- 3 They have told so many lies to the public that they
- 4 can't be trusted.
- 5 Transmission lines are becoming archaic and
- 6 obsolete with advances in new technology for solar and
- 7 other clean energy sources and energy efficiency
- 8 awareness and incentives. Investing in new transmission
- 9 lines now is like investing in new land phone lines
- just as cell phones took over home phone lines.
- 11 Thank you.
- 12 (Appl ause.)
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- MS. STREMLAU: I'm Karen Stremlau;
- **15** K-a-r-e-n, S-t-r-e-m-l-a-u.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Just a second.
- John Hochstatter, is he here?
- 18 (No response.)
- 19 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: John Hochstatter?
- 20 (No response.)
- 21 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Is there a Brown
- 22 here, B-r-o-w-n, Kevin? It cut off the first part of
- your name. You're next, Kevin.
- And then Lynn Grady or Gray?

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

| | 240 |
|----|---|
| 1 | (No response.) |
| 2 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Charles Lotridge? |
| 3 | (No response.) |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Joel Horn. |
| 5 | (No response.) |
| 6 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. |
| 7 | MS. STREMLAU: Thank you for the |
| 8 | opportunity to speak tonight. As many others have said |
| 9 | tonight, I am against the project proposed by RICL. |
| 10 | I'm opposed on many levels, but tonight I would like to |
| 11 | speak on behalf as an elected official. |
| 12 | I am supervisor of Troy Grove Township. The |
| 13 | proposed line would cut through the heart of our |
| 14 | township. As supervisor, it is my job to manage |
| 15 | taxpayers' money and to use it to the best of our |
| 16 | ability for our township. |
| 17 | Our township infrastructure is 56 miles and |
| 18 | 17 bridges. Those bridges and roads are built to less |
| 19 | than Class I status. Class I status is heavy truck |
| 20 | use. Yet if this project goes through, we would be |
| 21 | expected to let Clean Line run parades of heavy |
| 22 | equipment, heavy trucks, myriads of concrete trucks up |
| 23 | and down those roads. They're not built for them and |
| 24 | they can't withstand it. |

241 1 As many townships in Illinois, we are 2 currently experiencing aging infrastructure. 3 our bridges are currently on a watch list for their 4 safety. Use of these bridges by heavy equipment in 5 this proposed line building would not be a good thing. 6 The bottom line to that is we work on 7 taxpayer money, but in speaking to realtors, anywhere 8 those lines are built property values will go down. 9 our township revenues will go down because it's based 10 on property value. So for the townships it's a 11 lose-lose situation. 12 Previous experience with utility companies 13 and pipelines have taught us one thing. They come, 14 they build, and they leave the mess for us to clean up. 15 Damaged roads and other messes, as well. 16 We deal with it, but, basically, it's put on 17 the taxpayers' shoulders, and that doesn't make me 18 happy, and it doesn't make them happy. So they get a 19 double whammy. Their land is getting imposed upon; 20 they're being asked to give up their livelihoods in a 21 lot of situations, and they're being asked to pay for 22 it in the end. It's not right. 23 You may think that rebuilding roads is a 24 I can tell you right now we're rebuilding cheap venue.

- 1 a bridge, and the approximate cost is going to be a
- 2 million dollars. I have 17 of them in my township; I
- 3 really don't want to look at that prospect.
- 4 And I also have a solution for Rock Island
- 5 Clean Line. The gentleman just a few minutes ago said
- 6 you don't build the coal plants in the middle of
- 7 nowhere when the need is far away. So we know that
- 8 there's wind energy on the East Coast. We know that
- 9 you want to take your energy to the East Coast. Build
- 10 your wind farms on the East Coast, and you'll avoid
- angering 500 miles of Illinois landowners.
- 12 Thank you.
- 13 (Appl ause.)
- 14 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- MR. BROWN: Good evening. My name is
- 16 Kevin Brown; K-e-v-i-n, B-r-o-w-n. I want to thank the
- 17 ICC for coming back a second time and hearing us out.
- 18 All the speakers that came out, thank you. It's
- 19 definitely a charged emotional situation.
- I'm a third-generation Brown occupying the
- 21 property that these power lines are going to go through.
- 22 A lot of things have happened in three generations, and
- to say that things have changed drastically is a bit of
- **24** an understatement.

HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Nice hair. 1 2 MR. BROWN: I want the ICC to see through 3 the smokescreen that's being generated around this. 4 This is not about clean energy. I think we can all agree clean, renewable energy is a good thing. 5 I'm not for is these antique technology power plants. 6 It doesn't need to be done. All around the world 7 8 they've shown us that you can bury power lines, and 9 it's safe against weather. It doesn't make a lot of 10 sense to me. 11 Clean Line says that they're working with the 12 people to minimize the impact. That's just more smoke 13 and mirrors. They do not care about the people, just 14 like they don't care about clean energy. They're 15 looking forward to profit. At one of our initial meetings, I told them, 16 17 "I'll help you dig the hole," but after a whole lot of 18 smoke and, "Well, you know, nobody has ever done that 19 before," eventually they just said that's not what they do, they build power plants. Well, we don't want your 20 power plants. 21 22 Coming back to, "Well you'll be compensated for these towers," there's no amount of compensation 23 24 that can make up for three generations of hopes and

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

| | 244 |
|----|--|
| 1 | dreams for a piece of property. |
| 2 | (Appl ause.) |
| 3 | MR. BROWN: Let me tell you a little bit |
| 4 | about our farm. A long time ago, long before my time |
| 5 | my father and my grandfather had a conversation about |
| 6 | this little creek that runs through the property, and |
| 7 | my grandpa said, "We should dam that up and build a |
| 8 | lake." Long after he passed away my father did this |
| 9 | and I helped him. We built a 7-acre lake that is home |
| 10 | to thousands of Federally protected migratory |
| 11 | waterfowl. We're proximate to the Fox River and |
| 12 | frequently have eagles flying overhead soaring so they |
| 13 | can grab food. It's a miniwildlife sanctuary that is |
| 14 | not going to be any longer with 200-foot towers right |
| 15 | across the middle of the lake. |
| 16 | In that same spirit of carrying on the |
| 17 | generations' dreams, my father and I talked about |
| 18 | building a runway. We both have a love of aviation. |
| 19 | After my father passed on, I decided I was going to do |
| 20 | that. This project has currently been approved by the |
| 21 | Illinois Department of Transportation. It's at the FAA |
| 22 | right now. |
| 23 | This has all been in progress long before |
| 24 | Clean Line said, "We'll build here." So their research |

- 1 is ridiculous. Not only are we talking about draping
- 2 power lines over a runway, I also use this property as
- a drop zone for skydiving activities. Very recently
- 4 one of our form jumps was featured on Good Morning
- 5 America. I'm a professionally rated coach with the
- 6 United States Parachuting Association. But to do so
- 7 around 200-foot towers is pretty ridiculous especially
- 8 when it's carrying three times the power of Hoover Dam.
- 9 It's practically suicide. We have a good decade worth
- 10 of documentation with the FAA showing skydiving and
- 11 other aviation activities on this property.
- 12 Clean Line doesn't care about that. They
- care about their profit which does nothing for the
- 14 people of Illinois. A couple tax dollars here, a job
- for six months for somebody there. It's not long-term.
- 16 What I have long-term and it's going to be destroyed.
- I beg the people at the ICC, don't kill the
- 18 agriculture, don't kill the wildlife. I'd really like
- 19 it if you didn't kill me because that's what's going to
- 20 happen; that's what's going to happen when these power
- 21 lines come. If any death is going to occur, kill this
- 22 project.
- 23 (Appl ause.)
- 24 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

| | 246 |
|----|--|
| 1 | Okay. We have some time left. Is there |
| 2 | anybody in here that was on my list but I did not call |
| 3 | on them? Anyone? |
| 4 | (No response.) |
| 5 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Okay. Not |
| 6 | seeing any. |
| 7 | My next step raise your hand only if you |
| 8 | have not spoken before and would like to speak. |
| 9 | Gentleman in the white shirt is first. |
| 10 | You're second, you're third. |
| 11 | Anybody over here? Anybody else? |
| 12 | (No response.) |
| 13 | PARTICIPANT: May I turn in this letter? |
| 14 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Yes. |
| 15 | State your name and spell it for the court |
| 16 | reporter. |
| 17 | MR. OTTERBACH: William Otterbach, |
| 18 | 0-t-t-e-r-b-a-c-h. |
| 19 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Well, if you |
| 20 | want it on the record. She needs to |
| 21 | MR. OTTERBACH: I do want it on the |
| 22 | record. |
| 23 | First of all, my fashion consultant told me |
| 24 | that white shirts and construction orange wasn't for |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- 1 tonight, so sorry about that but here goes. I'd like
- 2 to thank the ICC for allowing me to speak even though I
- **3** wasn't registered, and I do appreciate that very much.
- 4 I'm a lifelong resident of Mendota. I've
- 5 lived here all my life, and I have three main concerns
- 6 with this power line: Airports, farming, construction.
- 7 And I'll explain all my points and then I have a
- 8 solution.
- **9** As a pilot, south of Mendota is a small
- 10 airport called Grandpa's Farm. It's owned and operated
- 11 by R.J. Krenz. He taught my dad, myself, and now my
- son how to fly. These power lines are proposed to go
- dangerously close to the south end of this runway.
- 14 Possibly they say it won't affect it, but I know when
- 15 I'm taking off in an airplane and that thing coughs,
- 16 anything can happen. These aren't dream catchers for
- these people; they're fly catchers.
- A little further to the east is another
- runway that's owned by Art Deck. It rolls right
- through next to his, dangerously close to his property.
- A little further on to the east is a
- 3800-foot grass runway owned by my mom, ran by our
- 23 flight service. There are -- during the busy season
- 24 10 airplanes fly out of there related to crop

- 1 production, insect control, and just general farming
- 2 practices. They seed, they fly -- many different
- 3 things for two major businesses around Mendota, one
- 4 being Del Monte Foods, the other being Pioneer Seed
- 5 Production, very vital to those two industries.
- 6 If you've ever flown a plane and you see
- 7 these high lines, if you're doing over 150 miles an
- 8 hour, a small string is highly invisible. You have to
- 9 know where they're at, and you have to be prepared
- 10 for them.
- 11 Okay. I've watched during this business
- season pilots go out, and they fly dusk to dawn -- dawn
- to dusk; excuse me -- and the guy who controls all the
- 14 operations and everything worries about every pilot
- until they're home safe that night. It's very vital to
- our agriculture industry.
- As I fly around the country in my airplane, I
- see different things that you don't see from the
- 19 ground. You see a 40-foot-by-40-foot monopole
- 20 structure, a high line; you see a cell tower. You see
- 21 acres and acres of abandoned housing developments. You
- 22 don't have to go very far. You go to Cortland; you go
- to Waterman and on east. These areas are never going
- to be reclaimed for farmland.

1 So as an American farmer, I see these acres 2 being gobbled up every day, and it's kind of distressing 3 So as an American farmer, I'm expected to to me. 4 produce energy, plant wind turbines on my farm. I'm 5 expected to grow corn for fuel and transport it, and, oh, yeah, I've got to feed everybody, too. 6 asking you as a farmer, do I have to do it all? 7 8 As a contractor, I do demolition contracting, 9 and I've been involved with four major companies, Blattner and Suzlon, two wind tower companies, a 10 11 pipeline company Groningen, and another pipeline 12 company that puts big pipelines underground. I liked 13 Mr. Brown's idea of burying these transmission lines, 14 burying them 10 feet deep. The only time I've ever dug 15 a hole 10 feet deep was to bury a horse. So those 16 won't be affected. 17 (Laughter.) 18 MR. OTTERBACH: It's getting late. 19 As far as the construction industry goes, I've dealt with those four companies, and only one has 20 really treated me right, and that company destroyed a 21 22 bridge up on Kesslinger Road in DeKalb County, and when 23 they destroyed that bridge, it actually collapsed and 24 it sat for two years because they didn't have the

- 1 taxpayer dollars to fix it.
- I leased a Batwing mower, which some of you
- 3 may or may not know, but it's a mower that folds out.
- 4 It covers 15 feet. It mows -- whatever you can get in
- 5 the front of it, it comes out the back. I leased
- 6 Blattner, a construction company, that mower and a
- 7 tractor. Worst decision I ever made.
- 8 I went up there; I delivered the mower; I
- 9 delivered the tractor. I went to hook it up, and they
- 10 said, "You can't do that." I said, "Well, it's my
- 11 mower. It's my tractor." "Sorry, sir, but you can't
- 12 do that." This is where I can't argue jobs. Because
- they called in a supervisor, they called in a safety
- 14 engineer, they called two operators, and they called a
- 15 laborer to hook up my mower. The reason they had to
- 16 have two operators was because the first operator
- 17 backed into the mower and broke the jack off. Then
- 18 they had to come in with another operator and a backhoe
- 19 to lift up the mower to hook it onto my tractor.
- So I'm sitting there watching this grinding
- 21 my teeth, and then they commence to mowing off
- 22 cropland. I talked to a good friend Abe Sandersen.
- 23 They said his landlord put 11 towers on that farm.
- 24 They mowed off 91 acres of standing tasseled-off corn

- 1 to put these towers in, 91 acres. And that wind tower
- 2 farm was 63 towers, if I'm not mistaken. I think they
- 3 expanded it to 70 or something, but you can imagine the
- 4 amount of cropland that was moved off. So if all the
- 5 farmers can just imagine a Batwing mower, it's not the
- 6 tower, but prepare yourself because they're going to
- 7 move off all your crops, the crops that you worked
- 8 hard for.
- 9 Now, if somebody come in and mowed off your
- 10 garden, you know, that's the same thing. You work hard
- 11 for what you do, and to see it all destroyed, there's
- no amount of money that could possibly pay for this.
- When it comes to money, you know, they
- 14 offered, I don't know, it was 85,000 or something
- depending on where you are, how many towers you've got.
- 16 I'm a very, very small farmer, and 85,000 doesn't even
- pay my seed bill in a year's time.
- 18 (Appl ause.)
- MR. OTTERBACH: Interstate 39 cut through
- 20 my farm back in the '70s. They took 33 acres, left a
- 21 few acres on the other side. That road was vital to
- 22 Illinois. I can't deny that. If all that traffic was
- over on 251, it would be disastrous. However, they
- paid anywhere from 17 to 2500 an acre for that land.

- 1 Today that land is worth from 10 to 15,000 that many
- 2 years later. So our future generations, it you're
- 3 going to pay us 85,000, it should be five times that
- 4 amount to cover our next generations. And, granted, we
- 5 can farm some of that, but it's still the fact that the
- **6** property is devaluated.
- 7 So my solution. 80-some years ago a man by
- 8 the name of Horace Hume came to -- you have to forgive
- 9 me because I get a little emotional on this, but I
- 10 really admired that guy. He came to Illinois. He drew
- a big circle around the corn belt in northern Illinois,
- and right dead center on that circle was Mendota.
- 13 That's the heart of the whole corn belt is Mendota,
- 14 Illinois. And he said, "I'm going to set up shop here,
- and I'm going to build my machines to help the farmer
- 16 harvest his crops." And he did and the company is
- 17 still alive today and going well.
- So my solution to Rock Island Clean Line is
- 19 you've already got the circle drawn. You've got a big
- 20 circle, an oblong, egg-shaped circle that goes from the
- 21 East Coast into Illinois. Put a dot in the center of
- 22 that. It hits about Cleveland, Ohio. Go north
- 23 100 miles, there's Lake Superior, and if you go a little
- bit further to the west, there's Michigan, and those are

- 1 some of the best wind resources we have. Yes, it costs
- 2 more money. Yes, you can build bigger towers. But I
- **3** just saved you 500 miles and 6 or 8 billion dollars.
- 4 So use some of that money. So that's my solution.
- 5 (Appl ause.)
- 6 MR. OTTERBACH: Let's put the power where
- 7 it's needed. And I cannot deny clean energy, but I ask
- 8 you not to grant them their right to come through.
- **9** HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 10 (Appl ause.)
- MR. HOGE: Thank you. It's been a little
- while since I've been in front of a microphone. I want
- to start off just by saying my name is Rob Hoge;
- 14 R-o-b, H-o-g-e. I'm a six generation family farmer in
- 15 Grundy County. This letter here is prepared by my
- 16 sister, Rebecca Parini, and my aunt, Martha Borger,
- **17** as well.
- This letter is in regards to the ICC's
- 19 Rock Island Clean Line petition.
- Our family has been landowners in northwest
- 21 Grundy County since 1831. We have been part of the
- 22 history and progress of Grundy County since its
- 23 inception in 1841. Like I said, my sisters and I are
- the six generation of Hoges, also Nelsons.

- 1 We have grown and worked the land in Grundy
- 2 County, Illinois. We have received the Centennial Farm
- 3 Program certification for the Hoge family and Nelson
- 4 family farms which both were established in about 1875.
- 5 This certification from Governor Quinn -- whom I
- 6 thought was going to be here tonight but I was
- 7 mistaken. I want to thank him, also, for helping get
- 8 this going again, having a second meeting.
- **9** Mr. Quinn says -- and I quote -- "The
- 10 Centennial Farm Program recognizes the pride and
- 11 determination of the generations who have labored to
- maintain this farm as an integral part of Illinois
- agriculture, " closed quote. The Nelson certified farm
- is on the present route of the 500-mile Rock Island
- 15 Clean Line project, which is where I and my wife and
- 16 daughter live.
- We do not feel the Rock Island Clean Line
- 18 embraces the same values of progress as our family and
- 19 its history. Thus, we oppose allowing the RICL project
- to proceed.
- Our agricultural roots run deep on both sides
- of our family tree. The Hoge family were the first
- white settlers of Grundy County. First Lumber mill,
- 24 school house, and church in Grundy County were all

- 1 established by ancestors of ours, William Hoge. He was
- 2 also one of the initial investors in the L&M Canal
- 3 project. Numerous men from the Nelson and Hoge
- 4 families over the past 150 years have held positions in
- 5 the county as judges, clerks, and other city officials.
- 6 I am also a township trustee of Nettle Creek Township,
- 7 which is where this will be running through. I'm also
- 8 politically involved in other ways.
- 9 But, anyway, clearly these men and women had
- insight to projects that would benefit the land and its
- 11 people. As an heir and representative of the Hoge
- 12 family farm, I can say that we as family oppose
- allowing RICL to obtain public utility status through
- 14 the ICC. Here is why we oppose it.
- 15 First, there is a great economic and
- anesthetic damage to Illinois' most valuable
- nonrenewable resource, our farmland with the much-
- needed production of food and fuel for the state and
- 19 the nation. The lattice structures that RICL proposes
- to build through the farmland would also lower our
- 21 property values, which would result in a decreased
- property value -- excuse me, in decreased property tax
- 23 revenues, thus creating decrease in tax monies that
- 24 would fund our schools. I know Grundy County was in

- 1 support. We are not.
- 2 These structures would -- I'm sorry -- these
- 3 structures would undermine permanently the future
- 4 development of any new plans our family would have for
- 5 the land, whether that be agricultural expansion,
- 6 irrigation, wind turbines, or even the possibility of
- **7** residential development.
- 8 Furthermore, RICL has not shown that there is
- 9 a need for such a line. They propose to ship out of
- 10 state wind-generated electricity to lucrative markets
- in Chicago and further east. However, the Federal
- 12 Energy Regulatory Commission has canceled two similar
- transmission projects due to reduced demand and a slow
- 14 economy. Also, governors from 10 East Coast states --
- we've all heard -- wrote to Congress in 2009 stating
- that they're not in need of our energy and prefer to
- 17 generate it themselves.
- Finally, there seems to be a violation of
- individual property rights by this large private
- venture that this company wants to take our property
- for less than the market value of the easement alone.
- 22 In addition, RICL's own testimony at the ICC states
- that they may not even build a line. However, the
- 24 acquisition of a new corridor through the heart of Iowa

- 1 and Illinois would be a highly valuable commodity.
- 2 That doesn't seem like good business practice to me.
- I can say that I've been a small business
- 4 owner myself, nothing like what you guys do but
- 5 sandblasting and painting went along with farm income
- 6 for my father and I. My father died in 2009, along
- 7 with his father two months later. So I am the last of
- 8 the Hoges to live in Grundy County on our side of the
- 9 family.
- As a generational family, farming family, we
- understand the need for progress, especially with
- 11.6 percent unemployment rate in Grundy County as of
- 13 July 2013. You can see that our -- that throughout our
- 14 family's history we have been in support of progress
- and infrastructure. However, Illinois farmland should
- not be taken out of production by private corporations
- 17 for privates gain. There is currently adequate public
- 18 service for the residents of Illinois, and RICL's
- 19 proposed project does not serve the public purpose.
- One last thing I'd like to add is, as I
- 21 mentioned before, that I'm a member of the republican
- central committee in Grundy County, and the vice
- chairman of the County board is a friend and coworker
- of mine. I posed a question to him back a few weeks

- 1 ago that -- he told me that he believes Grundy County
- 2 will be one of the only counties that's going to
- 3 benefit from this project, and that's mainly because we
- 4 already have a substation in Grundy County. And I told
- 5 him, I said, you know, that kind of made me a little
- 6 bit disgusted because if we're the only county that's
- 7 going to benefit from this, then I don't want to see
- 8 that. I want to see -- if this is something that has
- 9 to go through, I want to see everybody along the line
- 10 get something out of it.
- Everything is not perfect, you know, but just
- to cram this through and try to make as little noise as
- possible on the way through kind of disturbs me a
- 14 little bit.
- So thank you for your time.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- 17 (Appl ause.)
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Is there anybody
- 19 else that would like to speak on the record? You're
- **20** next.
- 21 Go ahead.
- MS. GOMBERG: My name is Susan Gomberg;
- 23 S-u-s-a-n, G-o-m-b-e-r-g.
- 24 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.

| | 25 |
|----|--|
| 1 | MS. GOMBERG: I live in Illinois. I |
| 2 | fully support the Rock Island Clean Line, and I strongly |
| 3 | hope the ICC give its approval for this project. |
| 4 | I have three points to make. |
| 5 | Number one, we're living in the 21st century |
| 6 | and times are changing. We need new clean, renewable |
| 7 | power. We need to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels |
| 8 | in order to have a cleaner energy future for our |
| 9 | children and our grandchildren. |
| 10 | Number two, on a more personal note, my |
| 11 | electric bills are way too high. With the Rock Island |
| 12 | Clean Line I look forward to lower electric bills, and |
| 13 | all of you should, too. |
| 14 | Number three, our economy could certainly use |
| 15 | some help. A project of this nature along with its |
| 16 | fabulous benefits for us all and low-cost wind energy |
| 17 | is also going to provide a slew of jobs in construction |
| 18 | and other related areas. What a fantastic thing for |
| 19 | Illinois. |
| 20 | I strongly believe for the benefit of the |
| 21 | people of our state the ICC should totally give its |
| 22 | stamp of approval to this essential project. |
| 23 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you. |
| 24 | (Appl ause.) |
| | |

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

| | 260 |
|----|---|
| 1 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Next. Did you |
| 2 | want to speak? |
| 3 | MR. VERSCHOORE: Yes, please. |
| 4 | HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: All right. |
| 5 | MR. VERSCHOORE: My name is Scott |
| 6 | Verschoore; S-c-o-t-t, V-e-r-s-c-h-o-o-r-e. |
| 7 | Yes, I'm one of them construction workers. I |
| 8 | have a family. I'm with the Electrical Workers, |
| 9 | represented by 1150 members and their families. And, |
| 10 | yeah, I'm an electrician by trade, but I also represent |
| 11 | linemen, and this would be a huge project for us. Do |
| 12 | you know what the economy has been the last few years? |
| 13 | We've had people out of work for over a year. We could |
| 14 | use this. |
| 15 | Yes, I'm a farm boy, too. I was raised on a |
| 16 | farm. Although, my dad's passed away, he farmed. And |
| 17 | we do have high lines. When I was a young man, they |
| 18 | run high lines through my father's property. So I |
| 19 | understand that, what it's like to have that but we |
| 20 | worked around them. We don't take our power right off |
| 21 | that line; it has to be shipped back. It isn't like |
| 22 | you can just throw a wire on that high line and hook it |
| 23 | right up to your house. It don't work like that. |
| 24 | I've heard that about burying the line. Can |

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

- 1 you imagine the soil impact on that farm burying a
- 2 cable? And what if there's a fault? I do have
- 3 experience in that. If you want to see a hole, you
- 4 want to see a mess, find a fault on a cable that's
- 5 buried in the ground. You're talking expense. That
- 6 cable above ground, they'll find that problem and
- 7 minimize the damage if there was, in fact, ever
- 8 a fault.
- 9 A lot of these power lines have been in for
- 10 years. Like I said, I was a young man, I think I was
- in junior high. I know it's been over five years since
- 12 I was junior high, hence, the gray hair, a little of
- 13 it. But I think we have to think of the future of our
- 14 family now, the generations ahead. I know those people
- in the past, they didn't want it on their property,
- these types of high lines, but look at the benefit that
- we've had for years for all of our forefathers who took
- 18 the chance and give us the opportunities to have power
- just like them farmers. I am one and I enjoy driving
- 20 up, turning my head -- my favorite time of the year is
- 21 the harvest. This is the reward. You still get to
- 22 farm. Like my dad, you can farm around them. Yeah, if
- there's an issue they're checking you could lose a
- 24 little property, but hopefully it doesn't happen. But

- 1 if we never took a chance, and the people before us
- 2 never took a chance, where would we be? We'd always be
- 3 Looking back.
- 4 One thing about these coal-fired power
- 5 houses, they take water. That's another renewable --
- 6 not renewable but another resource, natural resource
- 7 that we need. These wind turbines, they don't need any
- 8 water. So we could save that to feed our livestock --
- 9 not to feed, to water our livestock and for
- 10 ourselves, too.
- So, please, I know everybody has their
- reasons for or against, but I think we need to sit back
- and think about this for our future and the future
- 14 generations ahead of us, and I encourage the ICC to
- approve the Rock Island Clean Line project. And thank
- you for seeing me here tonight and hearing me.
- 17 Thank you.
- HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: Thank you.
- (Appl ause.)
- 20 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: The time is
- 9:56 p.m. We have four minutes. So he gets the last
- 22 four minutes.
- State your name and spell it.
- MR. GLEIM: My name is Eric Gleim;

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS -- 10/28/2013

263 1 E-r-i-c, G-l-e-i-m. I've just got a couple quick 2 points. I'm against RICL, first of all. 3 4 First off, I'd like to compliment Jimmy on the new jacket he got for this. 5 6 Second of all, it's pretty obvious how opposed we are to this. We have 15 of Mendota's finest 7 8 here and two of ICC officers here to protect these 9 clowns, pretty bad. 10 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: The clown that 11 they're protecting is me. 12 MR. GLEIM: Well, I'm glad they're here 13 for you. 14 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: I think that's 15 enough. 16 MR. GLEIM: We're good. Thank you. 17 (Appl ause.) 18 HEARING OFFICER BENSKO: I want to thank you all for coming tonight. It is most unfortunate 19 that the farmers are in the field, but I had no choice 20 21 but to do it either tonight or last -- one day last 22 week. I don't have a weatherman that I can depend on 23 for this area. 24 So it's been nice seeing you again. I hope

Chicago-area Realtime Reporters, Ltd. 800.232.0265 - Chicago-Realtime.com

| | 265 |
|----|---|
| 1 | STATE OF ILLINOIS)) SS. |
| 2 | COUNTY OF K A N E) |
| 3 | |
| 4 | I, Paula M. Quetsch, Certified Shorthand |
| 5 | Reporter No. 084-004299, CSR, RPR, and a Notary |
| 6 | Public in and for the County of Kane, State of |
| 7 | Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in |
| 8 | shorthand the proceedings had in the above-entitled |
| 9 | matter and that the foregoing is a true, correct, |
| 10 | and complete transcript of my shorthand notes so |
| 11 | taken as aforesaid. |
| 12 | IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my |
| 13 | hand and affixed my Notarial Seal this 7th day of |
| 14 | November, 2013. |
| 15 | |
| 16 | Due to the suppose |
| 17 | Certified Shorthand Reporter |
| 18 | Registered Diplomate Reporter |
| 19 | |
| 20 | My commission expires |
| 21 | October 16, 2017 |
| 22 | |
| | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |